IS ALEC STEWART AWINNER? ... or is England's new captain just a stopgap? SPORT, BACK PAGE



SUZANNE MOORE: TIME TO STOP THE NANNYING Why we really don't need a national day for parents COMMENT, PAGE 21



THE MAN WHO MADE MADONNA A GOTH ... and his new fashion empire at Balenciaga

FASHION, PAGE 17

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Revealed: FO links to mercenaries

6 May 1998

and Fran Abrams

SENIOR Foreign Office officials met mercenaries planning to help overthrow the Sierra Leone regime just five weeks before an embargobusting shipment of arms was delivered to anti-government forces.

The Independent has learnt that officials from Sandline International Ltd - who describe themselves as led by Craig Murray, deputy head of the FO's Africa (equatorial) department. Sandline was represented a Falklands veteran and the former for Sandline's actions ever given.

Army spokesman in Bosnia. Sandline has claimed that while it breached the UN arms embargo by shipping arms to Sierra Leone, the delivery had been sanctioned by the Government. The arms were used by forces trying to reinstate the former President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. He was finally reinstated in March this year.

A criminal investigation has been launched by officers from the National Intelligence Service - the in-"military consultants" - met officials vestigative arm of HM Customs and Excise - into the shipment and into the role played by British officials and Ministers. The FO has insisted that also a meeting at Sandline's London need to be answered," he said. "When at the meeting by Lt-Col Tim Spicer, at no point was ministerial approval

Penfold, the High Commissioner for Sierra Leone, did meet Sandline officials, but yesterday refused to comment on whether other officials met mercenaries. A spokesman said he was unable to comment on the advice of government lawyers. Mr Murray, who was appointed last year, also refused to comment.

Sandline also refused to comment. The Independent understands that three occasions, at least one of which took place at FO premises. There was

The FO has admitted that Peter en place on 19 January. Up to 30 tons of arms - provided by Sandline - were flown to Sierra Leone from Bulearia on 21 February. Training was also supplied by Sandline to assist up to 40,000 pro-Kabbah militia and the Nigerian army who also supported the former President.

Yesterday the row over the possible involvement of the Government deepened when Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary demandofficials met Lt-Col Spicer on up to ed that the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, make a statement on the matter. "There are many questions that headquarters in Chelsea. One of the did Mr Cook first know of these allegations? When did Mr Cook's of-

ficials first know of these allegations. What action did he take?"

However, Tony Lloyd, a Foreign Office minister, yesterday said Mr Cook and his team were kept in the dark over Sandline's involvement. He told a Commons select committee that although a Customs investigation was launched in February, ministers did not know about it until last weekend.

He told the committee that in March he had asked his officials about newspaper claims that Sandline helped to reinstate President Kabbah, but had still not been told about the Customs inquiry.

that Britain did not support the way to be questioned by Customs officers traced through their serial numbers.

ganised. Yesterday David Willshire, the Conservative MP for Spellthorne, told him at the committee hearing: "I started out feeling angry. I now feel sorry for you. I think you have been hung out to dry by officials. Time may show us that you have been hung out to dry by the

Foreign Secretary." President Kabbah was ousted in May 1997 in a bloody coup by Johnny Paul Koroma. He spent his exile in Conakry, the capital of neighbouring Guinea where the British diplomatic mission led by Mr Penfold dent Kabbah to impound the Last March he told the Commons had also transferred. Mr Penfold is weapons so their origin could be

the "counter coup" had been or- this week about his involvement and the possibility that he asked Sandline to come in. On 12 March Mr Lloyd reported to parliament a speech by President Kabbah on the day he was returned to power in which he said: "The British Prime Minister and his government also deserve our special thanks for their support and assistance in every respect."

Last night Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer who brought Sandline's involvement to the attention of the Foreign Office, said Robin Cook should now ask Presi-

Albright ups the stakes for peace

CONFRONTED by the total collapse of the Middle East "peace process" in London yes-State, Madeleine Albright, last upping the stakes.

She offered the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, a meeting with President Clinton in Washington in five days' time - on condition they accept American proposals that that the Americans - whose include a move to final status talks and probably severe restriction on the amount of land tled on a 13 per cent (Israel the Palestinians can ever hope to regain from the Israelis.

The offer-totally deforming the original 1993 Oslo agreement which envisages a series of extensive Israeli withdrawals before discussions on Jerusalem, settlements and refugees – is a sign of Mrs Albright's desperation. Indeed, it is a sign of Mr Arafat's desperation that he appears to have accepted it. Mr Netanyahu returned to Israel yesterday "to consult with his cabinet" - but without accepting.

There was some confusion as to whether Mrs Albright -who was both confused and hesitant in replies to journalists in London last night - understood the desire for "peace" by turning up. full significance of what she had announced. A later Downing Street briefing suggested that threatening that "if agreement the move to what the Secretary of State called "accelerated examine our approach to the permanent status negotiations" included talks on further Israeli "withdrawals" (sic), security and "confidence-building measures". But that is not what the permanent status negotiations friends in the Middle East". In in the Oslo agreement say.

The original document lists the topics for decision as Jerusalem, refugees, settle-

of quote call falto

50 40 80

borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbours, and other issues of common interest."

For almost a year, Mr Neterday, the US Secretary of tanyahu himself has been pressing the Palestinians to move night took the dangerous gam- straight to the final-status talks. ble of buying precious time by meanwhile dropping discussions of further withdrawals.

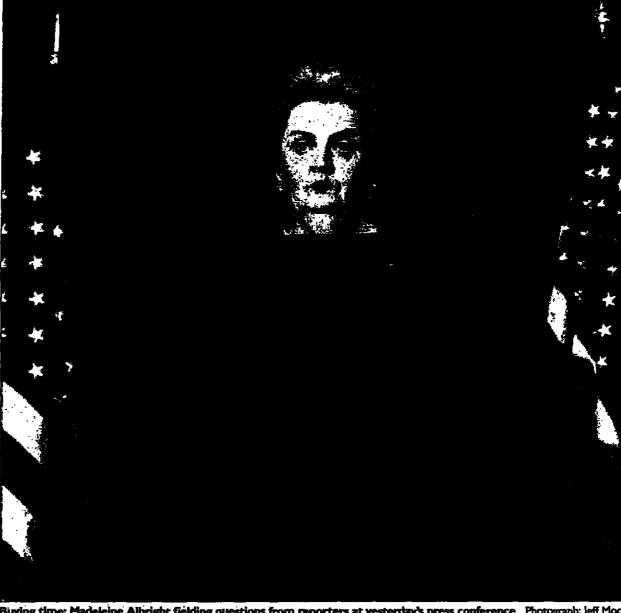
Is this really what Mr Arafat has accepted? As one Palestinian journalist put it last night: "Poor Abu Amar [Arafat's name], he'll never sell this to the Palestinians."

During the day, it was said compromise proposal for the next Israeli withdrawal had setwants only 9 per cent) evacuation - had produced a new Israeli figure of 11 per cent. Palestinian sources suggested that the Americans urged Arafat to accept the new statistic with a "promise" to achieve another 2 per cent withdrawal afterwards. The PLO turned the offer down.

In reality, Mrs Albright - and Tony Blair - have understood that Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat agree on only one thing: a desire that the other should be blamed for the destruction of the Middle East "peace process". The invitation to Washington is thus intended to force both sides to show their

Mrs Albright momentarily appeared to support this idea by is not reached, we will have to peace process." But fear not, she then added that "we are not going to walk away from a peace process because it's important to the US, to Israel and to our the Middle East, however, events have a habit of taking over when negotiations collapse.

Albright's fear, page 10



Buying time: Madeleine Albright fielding questions from reporters at yesterday's press conference Photograph: Jeff Moore

Protestors plan to run Brum off the road

By Ian Burrell Home Affairs Correspondent

MILITANT anti-road protesters are planning to hijack one

of the greatest days in the cronies" with custard pies. history of Birmingham. As world leaders convene for the G8 Summit in the city in ten days' time, it is claimed that

will be attempting to cripple power themselves." Birmingham's transport infrastructure.

The radical environmental group, which is dedicated to overthrowing the "cult of the notor car", has pledged to blockade roads and obstruct traffic with mobile sound systems and performance artists.

the Streets said the action, titled "Gyrate not G8", would have a mischievous edge with clowns trying to ambush government leaders and their "corporate

He said: "In Birmingham there will be eight men deciding what is going to happen to the rest of the world. This acthousands of protesters from the tion will give ordinary people Reclaim the Streets movement the experience of taking some

It is not an idle threat. Previous actions by Reclaim the Streets have created chaos in London. Three years ago, protesters put down carpets and food stalls in Upper Street, Islington, one of Britain's busiest roads. As traffic tailbacks built up, an armoured personnel car-



Hendrix. Other actions have seen Camden High Street, north London, blockaded for the day, and the M41 motorway A spokesman for Reclaim rier broadcast music by Jimi in west London occupied by

thousands of protesters on bi-Ironically for a city which has

long celebrated its links with the motor industry, Birmingham has recently redesigned much of its city centre to cater for pedestrians.

But the greening initiative did not impress Reclaim the Streets, "Pedestrianisation is not the answer." said the spokesman. "We need to tackle the root causes of traffic." West Midlands Police and

Birmingham City Council are aware of the planned protest and are taking contingency action. A police spokesman said: "Any lawful protest we have no problem with. But we have contingencies should they become unlawful."

leads race for cancer 'cure'

British team

By Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

BRITISH scientists expect to beat American colleagues to be the first to test a new approach to cancer treatment in humans which works by cutting the search Campaign, said: "We blood supply to the tumour.

Fifty patients will be selected at Mount Vernon hospital, Middlesex, to evaluate the approach, which attracted attention at the weekend after US scientists revealed its success against tumours in mice. It featured angiostatin and endostatin, which, when given in combination, target the blood supply to the tumour, cutting off nutrients it needs to survive and grow. The drugs appear to be effective against all solid tumours including breast, colon, and lung, and differ from conventional chemotherapy, which directly attacks the cancer cells.

The work, the culmination of 30 years' research, was described as remarkable by Richard Klausner, head of the National Cancer Institute, who said he was giving it priority for development. This triggered a the growth of blood vessels - for fivefold leap in the share price 30 years. Dr Secher said: "He of Entremed, the company hop- has been doing excellent work ing to market the drugs.

clear the Mount Vernon team, based at the Cancer Research Campaign's Gray Laboratories, is doing almost identical work and expects to begin human clinical trials this year, before the Americans.

The team announced a year ago that tests on mice using the drug combretastatin had shown it selectively attacked blood vessels supplying tumours. David Secher, director of drug development for the Cancer Rehave spent the last 12 months preparing for clinical trials and we hope to start them before the end of the year ... But it is far too early to say whether it is going to be effective. To hail it as a breakthrough would be irresponsible."

About 30 patients would be given the drug in the first phase to test its safety and set the right dose. That trial, lasting a year to 18 months, would be followed by a second-phase trial involving a similar number of patients over six to 12 months which would test its efficacy. "We would hope at the end of that time to have some indication of whether the drug is active," Dr Secher said

The US research has been led by Judah Folkman, of Boston Children's hospital, who has worked on angiogenesis -... but no one took much no-But yesterday it became nice until now. We in Britain may end up starting human clinical trials earlier but we do not see it as a competition. We want to evaluate whether angiogenesis inhibition plays a

role in the treatment of cancer.' Hamish McRae, page 21

loday's news

Vatican mystery

The Vatican broke with tradi-

tion by offering an explanation for the murder of the newly appointed captain commander of the Papal guard. Page 3

Picasso sting

A professional cat burglar, whose victims allegedly included Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor, came out of retirement to steal a Picasso only to be ar-

Stephen Goodwin writes what could be his last diary from Base Camp at Everest before the pash for the mountain's 8,848m summit of Everest. Page 9

Everest push



INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ■ CROSSWORDS, P30 AND EYE P10 ■ TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P12 ■ FULL CONTENTS, P2

This Sunday, organise a mortgage quicker than you can read the papers. Phone lines are open between 10am and 4pm.

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To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on the property and in the case of endowment mortgages an endowment of the advance and a charge over the policy. Loans are subject to status and valuation and are not available to persons under the age of 18.

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TOMORROW

■ He's taken Manhattan: New York acclaims British artist Howard Hodgkin

■ The boy from Ipanema: Marcos Vaile, king of Bossa Nova. comes to town

Education special: Open Eye - your guide to all the Open University's courses Plus take your pick of the best

MBA courses



CONTENTS

News Foreign Theatre Features **Obituaries** Comment **Business** Crosswords 30 & The Eye 10



Ofsted 'fails to improve exam results'

SCHOOL inspections by the Office for Standards in Education make little or no contribution to improving exam results, according to an analysis of official figures released last night.

The figures, based on answers to parliamentary questions, reveal that in most cases schools that have not been inspected make better progress in improving GCSE examination esults than those that bave.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat's education spokesman said that the difference in the who published the analysis, ac- rate of improvement between cused Ofsted of failing to carry out its job of school improvement. Critics of the standards watchdog argue that its approach is too threatening and punitive to be effective in im-

But Chris Woodhead, the school inspections which began Chief Inspector of Schools and head of Ofsted, strongly defended its five-year record and the inspected and uninspected

schools was insignificant. The analysis looked at the average GCSE score - where an A grade is worth 10 points - for all secondary schools during the first four years of secondary

in September 1993. It compared the progress of schools that had been inspected with those that had not.

The average GCSE point score of pupils in about 800 schools first inspected in 1993-4 went up by 2.1 points in the subsequent two years. Over three years it went up by 2.6.

But the pupils in the 900

ger improvement - up 2.3 points in 1995 and 2.8 in 1996.

Mr Foster, who analysed the Department for Education data with Charles Bell of the education pressure group Article 26, said: "Ofsted's mission statement

is 'improvement through inspection'. It is clear from our analysis that, for secondary schools at least, Ofsted is failing schools not inspected during in its mission. Once again evi-

those three years showed a big- dence has been provided that when we do, Ofsted is found to calls into question Ofsted's ap- be wanting." proach. There is an urgent need for an independent study into the

Ofsted said that it had never claimed a link between an inspection and immediate value for money provided by the improvement. chief inspector and his team."

Mr Woodhead said: This -The Government's spending watchdog the National Audit Of- sensational and simplistic analysis does not constitute a serious fice, has said that it is considercontribution to the debate ing an investigation into Ofsted. Mr Bell said: "Our analysis about inspection. It is statistically suspect and conceptually shows that it is possible to identify the effects of Ofsted. And naive."

IRA plot to murder **Charles**

By Alan Murdoch ın Dublin

A SELF-CONFESSED high-level informer in the IRA told a Dublin court how he had been sent to plan the murder of the Prince and Princess of Wales at a London theatre in 1983 and lead a bombing campaign in British seaside resorts.

Sean O'Callaghan, who described himself as a former head of the IRA's Southern Command, also recalled attending a Dublin IRA army council meeting in 1985 with senior figures in the current leadership of Sinn Fein.

O'Callaghan, 42, pleaded guilty in 1990 to the murders in 1974 of Ulster Defence Regiment soldier Eva Martin during an attack on a Royal Ulster Constabulary barracks in Tyrone, and special branch officer Peter Flanagan. shot in an Omagh pub. O'Callaghan served eight years in prison.

He earlier testified that he joined the Provisionals in 1970 at the age of 15, operating in Tyrone then Fermanagh, but resigned in 1975, living in England until 1979. He then rejoined in 1979 as a garda informer intent on undermining the organisation. He has cited blatant sectarianism in IRA ranks as the reason for his about-turn.

He was testifying for the Sunday Times in its appeal against a libel award to a County Louth farmer. Thomas "Slab" Murphy. In 1985 the newspaper described Murphy as IRA director of operations in Northern Ireland.

O'Callaghan was also to plan a seaside resort bombing campaign. He said that it was through his leaking details to authorities that the planned royal assassinations at the Dominion Theatre in London was aborted. The seaside bombs failed to explode.



Back home: Ben, David and Carolyn Mitchell at a press conference at Gatwick yesterday after their kidnap ordeal in the Yemen. Their relief at being released was tempered by news that Mr Mitchell's father had died during their captivity

Police call for national DNA register

A NATIONAL DNA database for every man and woman in Britain would save lives and cut crime, a senior police officer will advise the Home Office today.

Chief Superintendent Peter Gammon, president of the Police Superintendents' Association, wants the Government to consider taking genetic "fingerprints" from the entire

of cost and infringement of civil lib-

At present, there are about 250,000 DNA profiles stored on computer, mainly from offences involving violence, burglary, and sexual as-Chief Supt Gammon, who is to

meet Alun Michael, the Home Office minister, today, said: "I am asking for an examination of the issue of setting up a national DNA database for all the population. There are potentials The Home Office yesterday indi- here that we need to consider. In the cated that it would be prepared to dis-investigation of major crime, DNA is 300 matches a week between samples crime scenes and samples held on the cuss the idea, although there is becoming more and more important, found at crime scenes and DNA. Forensic Science Service's database.

expected to be opposition on grounds—and it is a very costly process to take—held on the database, according to the samples from people, process them, Forensic Science Service. and compare them with samples we may find at the scene of a major crime.

"So if we set up a national database, we make investigation of major crime more efficient, and there will be cost savings. You have serial killers on the loose, serial rapists - if you can identify them at their first offence, we can save people's lives."

At present, the national DNA database is limited to people convicted or suspected of offences. The database is currently making more than matches between samples left at

The proposal was criticised by hu-

man rights group Liberty as "unbalanced, misguided and wrong". ■ Eight "serious security breaches" in two years at the Government's foren-

sic science laboratories saw evidence destroyed in more than 200 criminal cases and more than six kilos of illegal drugs stolen, the National Audit Office reports today. But it also praises major breakthroughs in the use of DNA profiling, with more than 20,000

Gary Glitter faces more sex charges

By Diana Blamires

THE ROCK star Gary Glitter has been charged with a further five sexual offences, Avon and Somerset police said last night. Glitter - whose real name is Paul Gadd - is accused of four offences of indecently assaulting a girl.

Police said that one charge dates from 1976 and the others relate to alleged incidents between 1980 and 1983. The 54-year-old Seventies star. who lives in London, has also been charged with another sexual assault on a girl. He has been bailed to appear before North Avon magistrates court on 18 May.

The singer already faces 50 charges relating to indecent images of children allegedly found stored on a computer he took for repair. Glitter was arrested last November after staff at PC World in Bristol allegedly discovered the pornographic images.

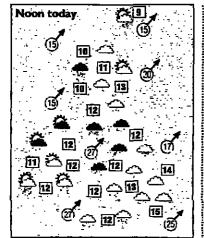
Glitter, was released on bail while police inquiries were made. He was interviewed again in March after returning from a three-month holiday in Cuba, when officers charged him under the Child Protection Act 1978 with 50 counts of making indecent pseudo-photographs of children under the age of 16.

He was also charged with 50 alternative counts of possessing indecent photographs of children, and released on bail to appear at North Avon magistrates court on 18 May.

Mr Glitter's lawyer, Henri Brandman said his client, who had attended a police station yesterday to face the charges, "vigorously protests his innocence".

"In view of the nature of the charges, the law does not permit us to make any further comment."

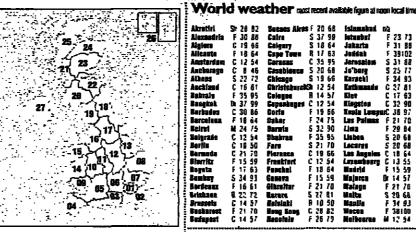
WEATHER



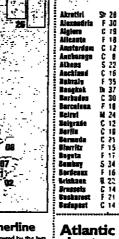
Heavy rain over Northern Ireland will soon clear to leave a mixture of sharp, blustery showers and sunny intervals. Scotland will start dry and bright with just a lew isolated showers, but it will become wet with some heavy rain from the west spreading across all areas. England and Wales will be largely cloudy with most places seeing rain at some time during the day, and there'll be some heavy outbreaks in the north. However, the south will become dry.

Outlook for the next few days Thursday will be similar with more rain for most areas, wiest in the north. Some southern areas of England may end up dry. After that England and Wales will see a vast improvement as rain moves away northwards but that means another couple of cloudy, rainy days for Scotland and Northern Ireland. The southern UK with but thundery showers are likely later Saturday.

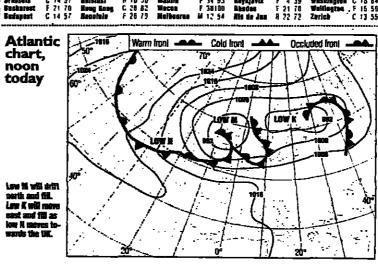
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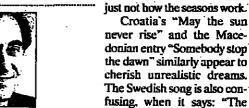
INDEPENDENT Weatherline chart, today





HARTSTON WEATHER WISE

each occurring five times.



MORE THAN half the lyrics to be heard in the Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday mention aspects of the weather. After eliminating repetitions, we find two references to 'weather', one to 'clouds', and one to 'summer'. 'Sky' (or 'skies'), 'sun' and 'storm' appear four times, but first place is shared by 'wind' and 'rain'

I fear we must again award ever you said "chorus. That's down and it's about to rain".

Croatia's "May the sun never rise" and the Macedonian entry "Somebody stop" the dawn" similarly appear to cherish unrealistic dreams. The Swedish song is also confusing, when it says: "The heavy clouds drifted away into the winds". Surely, even in Sweden, clouds cannot drift

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against the wind. The UK entry is the most autumnal: "Leaves are falling ... I would drive through the rain ... through the storm I call your name" though calling while driving through a

storm seems rather fruitless. The Netherlands begins: "Holland was just cool and cold/And especially the weather/The wind was never still" - a good description of the possibly windy conditions. over flat terrain.

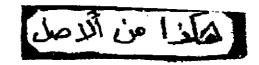
The Estonians promise to "challenge every storm that comes along", a more upbeat message than the Poles' "Your words bring out a melody, but all I hear is rain". The Pornul points to Norway for tuguese are "wandering under Summer for Ever and its a clear blue sky. In Hungary, "oh, oh, oh, oh, Summer for however, "the sun is going

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Murder at the Vatican leaves Pope baffled

By Anne Hanley

PATHOLOGISTS yesterday removed two bullets from the body of Alois Estermann, 44, the newlyappointed captain commander of the Vatican's Swiss Guard who was killed on Monday night in what the Pope described as a "humanly incomprehensible" incident.

If the Pope was baffled by the killing, not so his spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valis who broke with normal practice and offered an explanation at the same time at the deaths of Mr Estermann, his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, and a 23-year-old guard, Cedric Tornay, were announced. The information which has emerged up to this point," Mr Navarro Valls told a midnight press conference, "allows for the theory of a fit of madness by Vice-Corporal Tornay."

Yesterday, evidence emerged to back up this theory. From such a traditionally secretive organisation as his Roman girlfriend, his difficult the Vatican, such openness left many commentators wondering what the Holy See was trying to hide.

The deaths, the first inside the walls of the Vatican in centuries, occurred at around 9pm on Monday. Seven hours earlier, Mr Estermann had been appointed commander-inchief of the Swiss Guard, the military corps responsible for the Pope's personal safety and security within the Vatican state.

The wife of another Swiss guard who lives in the apartment next door to the Estermanns heard loud noises, and ran out of her flat to find the door ajar," Mr Navarro Valls said. cerity of the move.

Inside, she found three bodies. Vatican doctors and security forces were called, Mr Estermann, his wife and Tornay were declared dead and Tornay's service pistol was found beneath his body with five bullets missing.

As presented by Mr Navarro Valls, the case against Tornay seems

watertight. In February, after three years in the Guard, the vice-corporal received a "polite but firm" letter from Mr Estermann - at the time the acting commander - reprimanding him for unacceptable conduct, and in particular for failing to show up in barracks one night.

This, the Vatican press office chief said, led Tornay to complain frequently to fellow guards about his treatment. Over the past few days, on discovering he was not included on a list of guards to be honoured by the Pope at a ceremony due to take place today, Tornay's lamentations became more bitter. On Monday. evening, an hour and a half before the shootings took place, the vice-corporal handed a letter to a friend, telling him to make sure it reached his parents should anything happen to him. The contents were not disclosed by the Vatican.

Mr Navarro Valls suggested the vice-corporal's recent break-up with character, and other "small incidents" which can sometimes "explode into something illogical", could have affected his state of mind.

But this did not reconcile with statements from others who knew and worked with him. "Cedric Tornay was an extremely normal boy and I really find it very difficult to conceive of him having a fit of madness," said Jacques Antoine Fierz who served in the Swiss Guard until 1995.

The Holy See's uncharacteristic haste to provide a plausible explaold hands openly doubting the sin-

Above all, it begged a worrying question: if the name of Cedric Tornay is being taken in vain, and he was not responsible for this "murder-suicide", the killer is still at large. And



Gunned down: Alois Estermann, the newly-appointed commandant of the papal Swiss Guard, was found shot dead along with his wife and another Swiss Guard in the Vatican

Small but élite corps with a proud record of selfless devotion to duty

nation for the tragedy had Vatican MAY 6 is the feast day of the Swiss Guard, the sole remaining military corps in the Vatican State. Had everymer guards, families and friends would be celebrating today.

Instead, they will be attending a funeral service in Saint Peter's Basilithat killer, armed and dangerous, is ca to mourn their newly appointed wife, Gladys Meza Romero. The ser-

vice will also commemorate Cedric the corps, the only military body not shot them before committing suicide. His "fit of madness" - if the Vatican line proves correct - casts a pall over week they did well: for centuries, no thing gone to plan, present and for- a corps with a remarkably unblemished record since its foundation in tragedy of 1527, when the crack reg-partly to the pacific nature of this tiny iment of Swiss mercenaries defend- state, but also to the expertise of a

Tornay, the corporal believed to have axed in 1970, when Pope Paul VI reformed the most militarised state in the world, numbers 100. Until this murders had taken place within the area which is now the Vatican State. 1506. The May 6 feast marks the The Guard's success can be put down ed Pope Clement VII against the corps which is a highly trained unit wandering the corridors of the Vat- commander, Alois Estermann, and his invading forces of Charles V; 147 of well-versed in crowd control and in the Guard were mown down. Today single combat, including martial arts.

The commoner who displayed an uncommon degree of valour

ALOIS ESTERMANN led the Swiss Guard for six months before being formally appointed as its captain commander on Monday morning, writes Anne Hanley. Seven hours later he was dead, gunned down along with his wife in their apartment inside the Vatican.

Estermann was a man seem ingly without enemies, and his violent death stunned his men. "Anyone present last night as the news broke will have seen the reaction," said Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls vesterday. "Tears flowed, and it was understandable. He was very popular."

Born 44 years ago in Gunawill. Estermann was an official in the Swiss army before applying for a transfer to the Vatican. He entered the Holy See's only military force in 1980 as captain, was promoted to major in 1983, lieutenant colonel in 1989, and quartermaster in 1989. In the same year he was made second-in-command of the 100-strong force.

An able linguist, and a student of theology, Estermann married Venezuelan lawyer Gladys Meza Romero in 1983. She died with him on Monday. The couple had no children. We know that if the Lord wills it, children will come along," be told the La Repubblica daily hours before his death.

Famous as the man who threw himself in front of the wounded Pope on 13 May, 1981 to protect him from further injury as a Turkish terrorist shot at him in Saint Peter's square, He subsequently led the papal bodyguard on over 30 pastoral trips abroad. His dedication to the Pontiff and the Guard also endeared him to the soldiers which make up the Pope's body guard. Ursula Bensiger, a friend of 15 years' standing, said: Over the last six months, beIN THE **NEWS**

ALOIS ESTERMANN

fore his appointment on Monday, all the guards I know said the same thing. 'We're so well off with Estermann in charge." They all, to a man, wanted Estermann to stay."

Yet in the Vatican, or back home in Switzerland, there were those who were not wholly convinced by Estermann's qualities, as the delay in his appointment as commander of a force which he had been running since his predecessor retired in November last year

"The selection process is a long and complicated one, hampered by historical factors," said Navarro Valls in an effort to explain away the hold-up. "And sometimes when you're looking for the right person, you don't even notice that the perfect candidate is right under your nose."

Navarro Valis neglected to explain why Estermann's nomination took so much longer than that of his predecessors. Nor would he comment on the killed officer's plan to overhaul the Guard. And as for suggestions that Estermann's biggest drawback was his lack of blue blood, that topic was brushed aside in yesterday's press conference.

"This was a favourite topic for speculation amongst the Swiss community in Rome," said Bensiger. "Estermann's predecessor Roland Buchs was not noble either. Two commoners in succession was pushing it for the Guard."

Grade's last C4 programmes too safe, says TV watchdog

By Paul McCann Media Editor

MICHAEL Grade's final year of programmes at Channel 4 have been damned as too safe ter midnight. by the commercial television regulator in its annual report.

The Independent Television Commission also raised concerns about the spread of confessional chat shows like management came on board at Vanessa and, for the second year running, condemned ITV's lack Michael Jackson [Mr Grade's of variety.

Channel 4 "lost its drive" for innovation in 1997 and aired too few "landmark" programmes according to the ITC's annual performance review which was published yesterday. Sarah channel has put on programmes like its "Gimme Shelter" and "Banned" seasons, but last year had no "high peaks" of minority interest programming.

Friends and not enough on its more fringe shows. It is also unhappy that 84 per cent of the foreign language films shown by the channel last year started af-

This is largely a review of the old management and the old money Channel 4 used to receive," said Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the ITC. "The new absolutely the right time... successor) had very little influence on last year."

Since Mr Grade's departure in May 1997, the Government has stopped the controversial funding formula whereby Channel 4 paid a percentage of its ad-Thane, director of programming vertising revenue to ITV. In at the ITC, said in the past the return for keeping this money, the channel's broadcasting licence has been re-written to make it produce more original programmes and use fewer it first started." American imports.

Yesterday, Jocelyn Hay, The ITC is known to believe that Channel 4 spent too much chairman of the Voice of the of its energy promoting and buy- Listener and Viewer lobby dressing the ITC recommening programmes like ER and group, echoed the ITC's view: dations.



Grade: Steered Channel 4 into financially safe waters'

"Michael Grade was a very good judge of popular taste and he certainly steered the channel into financially safe waters and increased audiences, which means the channel was perhaps riskier in catering for really minority audiences when

Mr Jackson, Channel 4's chief executive, said yesterday that the channel was already ad-

The ITC report also criticised all broadcasters for daytime schedules that are over-reliant on confessional chat shows like Vanessa or Oprah. "They are an import and do raise concerns about the vulnerability of the people taking part and the general coarsening of society," said Sir Robin Biggam.

TTV was again criticised by the commission for having too much drama at the expense of entertainment and comedy in its peak-time schedule. Network Centre drama out-

but in 1997 increased once more to a level which is now nearly 26 per cent greater than that of 1993," says the report.

"Most of this is extremely popular and of high quality but it does crowd out other types of programmes. The network should achieve greater diversity."

Instead, the ITC wants the better comedy and entertainment from ITV and says its Saturday night line-up has become excessively one-note".



Tickets go begging for Diana visit

By Jan Burrell Home Affairs Correspondent

RED ON IT.

THOUSANDS of tickets to visit Althorp Park and the burial site of Diana, Princess of frenzied interest nearly four went on sale. The agency responsible for selling tickets for the opening of Althorp Park, the Spencer family home, told the ly 8,000 tickets are still available.

main unsold because of a widespread public belief that they still available." were all sold in the first week swamped transformed into "Britain's an-will be elevated on a plinth.

ing the past four months demand has dried up. The Spencer family oppos-

es any form of advertising of the Wales, remain unsold despite Althorp opening, which will allow 2,500 people a day to visit months ago, when they first the grounds and family home during a two-month period from July 1. Rob Wilmshurst, group manager of the Nottingham-based ticket agency Way Independent last night that near- Ahead, which has sole rights to sell the tickets, said: "Without It is thought the tickets re- a doubt, people would be sur-

This weekend it was again of January, when they first went stated that all the 152,000 tickon sale. Millions of people ets had been sold amid reports on sale. Millions of pools of that Earl Spencer was anxious buried. A 4ft-high urn, made in would not cover the staffing. This from all over the world that Earl Spencer was anxious buried. A 4ft-high urn, made in would not cover the staffing. This from all over the mount in the ancestral home was not a simple and classical design, is not a money-making exercise."

swamped credit-card phone that the ancestral home was not a simple and classical design, is not a money-making exercise."

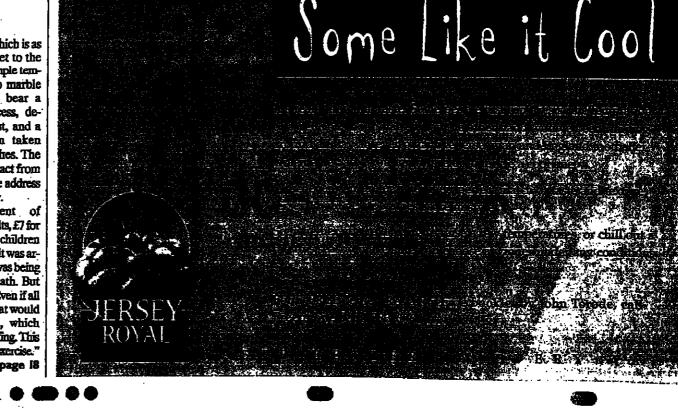
four days 140,000 of the 152,000 swer to Graceland". The earl tickets had been sold. But dur- said: "This is not a moneymaking venture, however good the cause might seem; it is spects, whilst preserving the dignity of Althorp.

Britain's answer to Graceland, and, whilst I live, it will never do so." Earl Spencer has repeatedly stated that he does not want Althorp to be turned into a tourist trap. The public opening will be for only two months each year and coach parties are not being accepted.

The earl has decided that an

At the lake edge, which is as close as tourists will get to the burial site, there is a simple temple that will have two marble meeting an obligation to those memorials. One will bear a who wish to pay their final re-portrait of the Princess, designed by a local artist, and a three-line inscription taken "It must never become from one of her speeches. The other will carry an extract from the earl's funeral service address at Westminster Abbey.

The announcement of charges of £9.50 for adults, £7 for pensioners and £5 for children caused controversy, as it was argued commercial gain was being made from Diana's death. But Mr Wilmshurst said: "Even if all 18ft-high memorial will be built the tickets were sold that would on the island where Diana is only generate £1.4m, which



Judges reject British move to ease beef ban

have the worldwide ban on British beef exports declared illegal was rejected yesterday by the European Court in Luxembourg.

The judges said the European Commission did not exceed its powers when it banned exports of British beef, not just to the rest of the European Union but throughout the world. The ban was imposed in

A GOVERNMENT attempt to March, 1996, in response to grow-

ing fears over the spread of BSE. The Government lodged an immediate complaint that Eurocrats and other EU governments were acting politically and economically, to fend off a public backlash which could hit beef sales in the other member states. It also argued that the commission had no right to interfere in Britain's trade with countries be-

youd the EU. The case was adopted by the Labour government after its victory in last year's election.

Yesterday, however, the judges backed the commission's claim that it was only taking steps sufficient to contain the spread of mad cow disease by preventing British beef which might be exported to non-EU

countries re-entering the EU. The ban was triggered by fresh

information provided on 20 March 1996 by an independent scientific body set up to advise the British 20vernment, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (Seac). The committee confirmed that "the most likely explanation" for the appearance of a new variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease - an incurable encephalopathy affecting humans - was exposure to BSE.

The judges said: "The new information significantly altered the perception of the risk which BSE represented for human health, and thus authorised the commission to adopt safeguard measures."

They added that the commission was empowered to immobilise and contain animals and animal products within a specified territory as "an appropriate measure" in the event of dis-

ease threatening a serious hazard to animals or humans. "In order for such containment to be effective, it is necessary to impose a total ban on the movement of animals and products outside the frontiers of the member state concerned, thereby affecting exports to third countries, furthermore those directives do not expressly preclude the commission from banning

exports to third countries."

The court ruled that bearing in mind the probable link between BSE and CJD, and uncertainty about the effectiveness of anti-BSE measures. the commission did not exceed the

bounds of its discretion. The National Farmers Union. which backed the Government's case said it was disappointed by the ruling but pledged to maintain vigorous efforts to get the ban lifted soon.

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Call to scrap teacher pay-review body

Education Correspondent

THE teachers' pay-review body should be scrapped to end a string of under-funded pay ofto push up class sizes, local-gov-

ernment employers said yesterday. They said rises over the past 11 years had put teachers and heads at the top of the town-hall pay league. Increases in pay had totalled 102 per cent for teachers and 114 per cent for heads since 1986, even outstripping the police.

In the meantime, repeated shortfalls in education budgets had forced councils to increase class sizes, pushing up teachers' workloads and driving down morale, said Graham Lane, sent to ministers yesterday. At education chairman of the Local Government Association

He condemned the Teachers Pay Review Body for igfers which had forced schools noring the financial position of councils when recommending pay rises for teachers, and called for direct national negotiations on classroom pay and conditions to improve classroom morale.

Mr Lane said: "Teachers have had a few extra quid a week for teaching in some instances quite considerable extra numbers in the classroom."

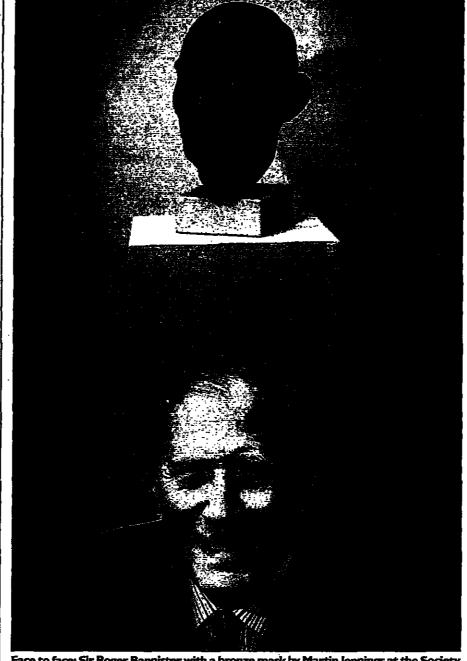
Proposals from the LGA and the Local Government Management Board, which represents council employers, were

present the seven-member payreview body is enshrined in law. Local-government leaders want to replace it with direct an-

nual talks with teacher unions. Alternatively, council leaders suggest, the Government could set up a new wages council bringing together employers and unions, or move to bring teachers and employers into the existing review body.

Most teaching unions back the review body, although the largest, the National Union of Teachers, said it had been disappointed with its perfor-

Mr Lane attacked the current review body for being out



Face to face: Sir Roger Bannister with a bronze mask by Martin lennings at the Society of Sculptors exhibition at The Gallery in London yesterday. Today is the 44th anniversary of Sir Roger's record-breaking sub-4-minute-mile

IND11

Prisoner found hanged in cell

A MEMBER of a gang which murdered a South Wales jeweller has been found hanged in his cell at the privately-run Parc prison near Bridgend. The death is the second to occur at the prison which opened last November and is operated by Securicor.

Dallas Lee, aged 27, from Beddau, near Pontypridd, acted as getaway driver in a bungled robbery when Jerry Hales was fatally stabbed at his shop in Cowbridge. An appeal against his conviction had been pending.

Fashanu post-mortem

JUSTIN FASHANU, the footballer whose body was found in a garage at the weekend, hanged himself, Scotland Yard said yesterday. A police spokesman said that a post-mortem examination showed "death by suspension" and confirmed that there were no suspicious circumstances. Fashanu, 37, once rated as one of Britain's brightest young football stars, was found hanged at a set of garages in Shoreditch, east London. He fled to Britain after being charged with sexually assaulting a 17-year-old boy in the United States.

Boxer taken off ventilator

THE boxer Spencer Oliver, who suffered life-threatening injuries in a bout on Saturday night, has been taken off a ventilator and is starting to talk to medical staff and his family. He is expected to leave the intensive care unit of the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London by today. The 22-year-old super-bantamweight underwent a three-hour operation to remove a blood clot from his brain after being knocked down in a bout at the Royal Albert Hall. A spokesman for University College London Hospitals said "the risk to his life from this injury is now greatly reduced".

Playgroups to get more funds

A SMALL increase in funding for playgroups will be announced today by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, today. His announcement comes as playgroup campaigners record the closure of 424 playgroups or pre-schools during the past six months. They blame the closures on the increasing number of reception classes which now take four-year-olds.

Maiden voyage cancelled

THE maiden voyage from Southampton of the world's largest cruise ship, the 109,000-tonne Grand Princess, has been cancelled because work still needs to be done on the vessel.

Big poppy crop swells heroin tide By Ian Burrell officers have been alarmed at Home Affairs Correspondent

THE Government warned yesterday that the threat of a heroin epidemic in Britain has been greatly increased by a "bumper poppy crop" being harvested in Afghanistan. George Foulkes, the Under-

Secretary for International Development, said that both sides fighting in the Afghan civil war were being financed by the profits of drug production.

Afghanistan is the source of 95 per cent of the heroin which comes to Britain and Customs the scale of importation. A total of 1,747kg of heroin was seized in 1997, a tonne more than the previous year. Police estimate the haul has a street value of more than £145m and is the equivalent of nine million wraps". Mr Foulkes said: "Doing something about Afghanistan is probably more important to Britain than any other overseas issue."

The minister's warning came on the day that Britain's first American-style drug court was launched, allowing some heroin-using criminals arrest-

ed in parts of West Yorkshire to be dealt with at a special court and sentenced to treatment. They will be forced to give urine samples twice a week to prove they are staying off drugs and if they repeatedly fail they could face prison. The drug court will sit week-

ly at Wakefield magistrates court from June. Addicts arrested from this week will be bailed to attend the court. More than 20 magistrates are undergoing training in dealing with drug-related crime thought to make up 70 per cent of crime committed in the area.

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The Palms Hotel, Hornchurch

hanged in cell

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get more funds

cancelled

Women's millennium view

London is hosting the "Female Millennium" global conference this week and many of the distinguished women delegates have contributed items to go into a time capsule. Some of these are predictable, like Hillary Clinton's humble donation of four of her own speeches on women's issues. Rabbi Julia Neuherger is more down-to-earth; she's offering a babygrow. But Pandora believes none of the VIP women will be able to match in earthiness our former head of the Secret Service, Stella Rimington, who wants to deposit a dis-

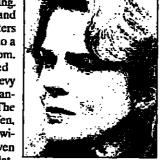
It just doesn't add up

The Associated Press newswire carried an interesting item on Saturday about British fireman, David Thomas, who has set a new world record: he can remember 22,500 digits of the infinite number pi. Unfortunately, the AP wrongly printed the first five digits of pi as "3.164" and later had to issue a correction for the figure: "3.1416". The AP's mistake is perfectly understandable to someone with Pandora's own pathetic mathematical prowess.

A night at the White House

Recently President Clinton released the names of all those guests who had been given the honour of spending a night in the White House between 1993 and 1996. Pandora found the "arts and letters" section of the

list made depressing reading. Far more Hollywood stars and moguls than authors, painters or musicians were treated to a night in the Lincoln Bedroom. The lucky guests included Candice Bergen (right), Chevy Chase, Ted Danson, Tom Hanks and Barbra Streisand. The moguls included David Geffen, Peter Guber, Norman Jewison, Sherry Lansing, Steven Spielberg and Ted Turner. Nat-



urally, some of the guests were also heavy contributors to Clinton's Democratic Party including Spielberg (\$225,000), Geffen (\$234,300) and Streisand who gave a mere \$86,400.

Wrong connections

Undoubtedly the most entertaining section of the Guardian appears on its obituaries page every day under the headline "Corrections and Clarifications." Pandora, of course, salutes this shining example of journalistic integrity, particularly the tongue-in-cheek style in which these embarrassing or trivial "corrections" are written. Last Wednesday, for example, the paper confessed to interested in obtaining more information about business and management awards. "The number we gave connected callers was the Interactive Speakeasy Chat and Date Service and provided an alternative number for gay callers." How very droll.

Police sting ends the tale of the cat burglar and a stolen Picasso



Corne Correspondent

A FORMER professional cat burglar, whose victims were said to have included Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor, came out of retirement to steal a valuable Picasso only to be arrested after a police sting, a court heard

Police believe 67-year-old Richard Scott is the man responsible for a shotgun raid on a gallery in Mayfair, central London, last March, in which the robber escaped in a taxi,

Mr Scott, who according to his autobiography, Gentleman Thief, had a colourful past as a famous cat burglar, wanted around £75,000 for the work Tête de Ferume (Woman's Head), a jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court in south London was told.

But his plan to sell on the painting was foiled after the man he passed it on to tried to negotiate a £650,000 deal with a team of undercover police officers posing as art dealers, the court heard.

Andrew Campbell, for the prosecution, said the painting had been snatched from the Lefevre Gallery last year after a man had walked in carrying a holdall.

Mr Campbell said the man asked how much a Picasso on display was worth and was told £650,000.

"He then said to the people working in the art gallery, 'I've got a shotgun and want that painting'."

He took the painting off the wall and walked to a taxi which he had left waiting outside the gallery and ordered the driver at gunpoint to go to an address in Wimbledon, south-west

Within hours of the robbery Mr Scott had met an accomplice, Ronald Spring, 70, to give him the painting which had been cut from its frame and placed in a small red suitcase, the jury

Spring told the court that Mr Scott

had demanded payment of £70,000 to £75.000 within seven days for the ab-

stract portrait. Mr Campbell said that Mr Scott later claimed he was simply acting as "an innocent go-between".

The police "sting" came after Spring had contacted an undercover officer, known only as Patrick, on the morning of the Picasso raid to offer him the picture.

The court heard that Spring had earlier claimed his accomplice was sizing up a £5m painting to be stolen at a later date.

The court also heard that Spring, of Southgate, north London, had offered the team of detectives posing as art dealers a whole series of deals in the months leading up to the Picasso

Seven days after the robbery police arrested Spring at his offices in central London, as he attempted to hand over the Tête de Femme after it had been authenticated by an officer posing as an art valuer.

The solicitor, who has already pleaded guilty to a charge of conspiracy to handle stolen goods, agreed with police to take part in a counter operation against his alleged accomplice, the court heard.

The two men agreed to meet at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street where Spring was to hand over Mr Scott's share of the proceeds from the Picasso sale.

Mr Scott was handed a bag of cash in full view of police officers after he told him he had to settle for less than expected, it was claimed.

Mr Campbell told the court that Mr Scott smiled as he was shown the cash, er detectives.

Earlier Mr Campbell had told the jury: "Mr Scott is a man who has made his living as a cat burglar. He is actually quite famous, he has written a

Mr Campbell added: "The victims



Gentleman thief: Richard Scott leaving Southwark Crown Court yesterday (top left), where it was claimed that he stole Picasso's Tête de Femme from the Lefevre Gallery (below) Photographs: Tim Whitby, Jeff Moore

of his burglaries include Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor. But according to him he has given all that up."

Mr Scott, a property developer of conspiracy to handle stolen goods.

The court heard that the two men, who first met in 1977, had initially discussed art thefts in April 1995 during a series of meetings following the publication of Mr Scott's autobiography.

The case continues.

DAILY POEM Section from 'A Kitchen Poem'

By Les Arnold

He sang as he cooked. Arias in pig-Italian, the debris doggerel of late-night cafés, hymns. He loved to set his food to music. His fishcourse to Debussy, his strong meat to Beethoven, his puddings to Poulenc. When it was over, when the goose was cooked, the soufflé rose in triumph over Paris roofs like the truffle pig at sunrise in his master's forests, he loved the silence of departed diners. He cleansed tables, scoured the kitchen, absolved the gathering darkness. Going home through silent streets, mind emptied of night and day, his eyes unstrung ...

The "Kitchen Poem" sequence appears in Shaker City, the final volume by the poet and teacher Les Arnold, who died in 1992. Shaker City is published, price £7.95, by Stride Publications at 11 Sylvan Road, Exeter EX4 6EW.

Beatles come together for 'bootlegging' battle

FORMER members of the Bea- last trip to the German club tles and Yoko Ono began a le- fulfilling their contract after gal action yesterday to try to recover an amateur recording EMI Records and were enjoyof them playing in Hamburg 36 years ago.

George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Sir Paul McCartney and Lennon's will, are asking a High Court judge to ban sales recording made at The Star Club in 1962. They also want the original tape, or proof that it has been destroyed.

It was made by Edward Taylor, leader of obscure Sixties band King Size Taylor and the a double bill with the Beatles. The Beatles were making their

they had already signed with ing their first hit, "Love Me Do", which reached No 17 in the charts that December.

Mark Platts Mills QC, rep-Yoko, who is executrix of John resenting the Beatles, told Mr Justice Neuberger that there had been "various attempts to of a CD produced from the exploit" the tape by people associated with the defendants, Lingasong Music, of Waltham Abbey, Essex. Lingasong claims that Lennon, who was shot dead in 1980, gave his verbal consent to the recording.

Mr 'Platts Mills said the Dominoes, when he was playing . only people allowed to make recordings of the Beatles at that time was EMI under the terms



Ringo Starr: Legal reunion with McCartney and Harrison

of a contract signed by their manager, the late Brian Epstein.

An album of the Beatles' songs from the recording was released in 1977 on the Polydor label. Injunctions to stop it were refused by the High Court. Yesterday's action is being made under the new 1989 Copyright Act which gives more protection to

Staff used washing-up liquid to clean factory, E.coli inquiry told By Charles Arthur Science and Technology Editor: THE manager of a butcher's

premises thought that the "bio" prefix of "biodegradable washing-up liquid" meant it would kill bacteria, an inquiry into the world's worst outbreak of E.coli O157 food poisoning heard yes-

Robert Hepburn, 41, who was the manager of the butcher's factory within the John M Barr premises in Wishaw, Lanarkshire, also said that staff at John Barr's butcher's premises did not use temperature probes when cooking joints of meat, and had no written instructions or formal training. But he said he could not ex-

plain how health experts investigating the outbreak's sources found traces of the E.coli O157 bacteria on a vacuum-packing machine and on the rim of a meat boiler.

The Lanarkshire outbreak began in November 1996 and eventually killed 21 elderly people. The Barr premises have been implicated as a major source of food potentially contaminated with E.coli O157.

Under cross-examination at the fatal accident inquiry, now in its third week, Mr Hepburn denied that cleaning procedures were skimped by staff working "flat-out" in a busy environment. To clean the factory part of the premises, staff used biodegradable washing-up liquid.

"You thought the word 'bio' meant kill bacteria?," he was asked by Dennis Crawley, counsel for Wishaw Old Parish Church, which organised a church lunch where several elderly pensioners contracted the bug, and also the Bankview nursing home, five of whose residents died in the outbreak.

He said that batch cooking of meat such as pork, roast beef and gammon, took place in a large boiler four times a week. The meats came from suppliers located at Wishaw abattoir and in Glasgow, and after cooking they were vacuum-packed. But he said that staff received no formal training.

"Yes." replied Mr Hepburn.

The inquiry continues.

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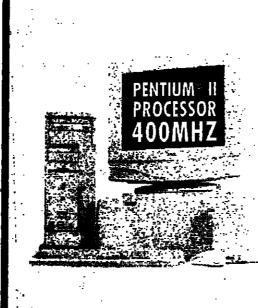
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Cook adds voice to 'fair' votes system

ROBIN COOK is ready to signal his support for a compromise over electoral reforms which could give Tony Blair's government the prospect of two decades in power.

The Foreign Secretary has been the leading voice inside the Cabinet in support of proportional representation. But he is ready to endorse an alternative vote system plus a top up of MPs elected by PR.

He was criticised recently for expressing the hope that Labour could stay in power for 20 years. Some Labour aides were also reported to have celebrated Labour's first year in power by calling for 20 more years in office.

But Mr Cook's swing in favour of the compromise system, known as AV-plus, could help to keep the Tories out of power for the next decade, by capitalising on the majority of voters who either vote Labour or Liberal Democrat.

Labour campaigners for a fairer voting system for the Commons believe Mr Cook's acceptance of AV-plus, to be signalled in a book published next month, could help to persuade Tony Blair to back the idea before the next general election. He has promised a referendum in this Parliament following the recommendations of the Jenkins Commission, which is due to report in October.

"Robin is the key," said one Labour campaigner last night. "Mo Mowlam and Clare Short are in favour. Jack Cunningham is less committed.

"If the Jenkins commission

anyone in the Cabinet will oppose it. No one is going to resign from the Cabinet if they come up with AV-plus."

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who would have to introduce the legislation, is the strongest opponent of PR but has come out in favour of AV. Accepting a top-up by proportional representation would be a compromise which his friends believe he would be prepared to make, if it was accepted by Mr Blair.

The campaigners believe that the other known Cabinet opponent of PR, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, is also prepared to compromise.

Senior Liberal Democrats who have been campaigning for a purer form of PR for the Commons are also prepared to accept the compromise, The Independent learned yesterday, and they said it should be done before the next election.

"Blair can oil the wheels to make the change with a big majority - he has patronage and he can accommodate people in the Lords, in the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, in London, and the regions," said one senior member of Paddy Ashdown's team.

Under the alternative vote system, voters would be able to indicate their preference, if their first choice failed to get 50 per cent to be elected. But there would also be a top-up of MPs from the party lists, elected in proportion to the parties' total votes in the polls.

The advantage with the system over other forms of PR is that it would retain the MPs' links with their constituencies, but the snag is that to achieve comes up with something that a top up and keep the Com-



Joining forces: MP's (left to right) Jenny Tonge (Lib Dem), John Hayes (Con) and Oona King (Lab) launch the debt lapel chain, the symbol of Christian Aid's campaign to wipe out Third World debt. The chains cost £1 each

"That way people could end

up getting a Conservative or

Liberal Democrat council by

the back door. To get the best

deal for local people, it's im-

portant that local councils and

central government work

That appeal - identical to

appeals made by the Tories

when they were in office - un-

derlined the fears of the party

machine that they could be fac-

ing embarrassing losses and

the appearance of a loss of

together.

Blair paves way for Labour losses

By Anthony Bevins

Political Editor

THE Prime Minister yesterday prepared the ground for Labour losses in tomorrow's local elections with party fears that complacency would keep the voters at home.

Tony Blair told a press conference in London that unless the Tories managed to take control of a number of new local authorities, then they were in severe difficulty.

But he then added: "Of course we don't want serious losses at all. What I'm saying Blair can accept. I don't think mons roughly the same size. I is that we had in 1994 an ex-

traordinarily good set of results.

"It would defy all the rules of politics if we managed to achieve as good a result or anything near as good a result as that, although the feedback on the ground is actually good, but there is the issue of turnout."

In a considered appeal to people who had previously voted Labour, the Prime Minister said: "I know that many Labour voters believe they did their job last year by voting for the Labour government. It would be a real mistake to stay at home on Thursday and not

But Mr Blair added that the Tories had already claimed they were on track for a political comeback in the elections, and he said: "They claim to have reformed their party, they claim to have learned the lessons of defeat

"If they don't make very big gains this Thursday it will be a crushing blow to them."

Paul Burstow, the Liberal Democrat local government spokesman, said yesterday that the Conservatives needed to make 500 gains nationwide, and the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, said his party offered relief from oneparty rule - under whichever

Asked about Labour's London boroughs.

spending review, Mr Blair said that it would generate extra investment for priority areas like schools and hospitals, but he warned that extra cash would be tied to reform.

"We want better schools, better hospitals," he said.

But he added: "That comes not just through more money but by making sure also that we have the right structures in place and the right programme in place for reform and change."

More than 4,000 seats are being contested in the elections, including all those on the 32

More to trade unionists' liking is likely to be a decision on who will draw up the constimencies for ballots. The CBI wanted employers to define the boundaries of the "bargaining unit" with a right of appeal for unions. But Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, has told employees' leaders that the initiative will initially lie with unions.

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Cabinet

for clash

on union

TONY BLAIR has decided to risk a public clash with some of the Labour Party's biggest financial backers by siding with

employers in a key element of

The Prime Minister is ex-

pected to tell the Cabinet to-

morrow that he is determined

to enforce stringent tests before

a union can win recognition at

In particular, he will reveal

that the White Paper on "fair-

ness at work", due to be pub-

lished within weeks, will insist

that employees' representatives-

have to win 40 per cent back-

ing of the relevant workforce in

The Confederation of

a ballot, not just a simple ma-

British Industry originally ar-

gued for a 50 per cent thresh-

old, but has subsequently

accepted the 40 per cent figure.

from some union leaders, John

Monks, general secretary of

the TUC, offered a compromise

Some leading trade unionists

will reluctantly accept the Prime

Minister's formula - given oth-

er employee-friendly elements

of the White Paper - while oth-

Bill Morris, general secretary

of the Transport and General

Workers' Union, yesterday sug-

gested that there be a referen-

dum on the White Paper among

agree with the CBI on an issue

which has received the most

public attention, he is expected.

to offer unions something in re-

turn. The Prime Minister will

feel the need to placate more

union-minded government col-

leagues and maintain the flow

of funds from unions into

Labour Party coffers.

While Mr Blair is anxious to

all 7 million union members.

ers will be less gracious.

of 30 per cent.

In the teeth of opposition

jority of those voting.

the workplace.

legislation on union rights.

heads

rights

By Barrie Clement

If the boundaries are disputed, the company will have the right of appeal to an independent body - a revamped Central Arbitration Committee, which will make the final

It is expected that the White Paper will suggest that organisations with fewer than 30 workers be excluded from the law. The CBI originally called for a limit of 50 employees, while the TUC preferred a system in which recognition would be granted in firms of fewer than 10 workers dependent on majority union membership.

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sleaze and poor services

By David Walker and Linus Gregoriades

"WE are taking our message entirely from Peter Mandelson," according to Stephen Hitchins, Liberal Democrat leader in the north London borough of Islington, "the people deserve better, it's time for a change.

Solid Labour Islington, former home of Tony Blair himself. is under assault, accused of levying excessive council tax. borrowing profligately (Islington's £800m debt is blamed by the Liberal Democrats on the former council leader, now Blairite loyalist MP Margaret Hodge) and badly managing its education and social services.

"There is such a disparity," Mr Hitchins says. "In booming, trendy Islington the quality of services in almost every department is below par." It is a charge being made by the Liberal Democrats across urban England as they position themselves as the principal opponent of Labour hegemony in the big cities. Interestingly, there are some signs that such criticisms are not entirely unwelcome either at Labour headquarters or

in Tony Blair's inner counsels. In Doncaster and Hull, Labour's reputation has been damaged by allegations of sleaze - though whether voters tomorrow will move beyond complaining to vote for the Liberal Democrats is by no means certain. In Liverpool and Hackney in north-east London the charge against Labour is dis-organisation - though in Hackney the Liberal Democrats' current 17-strong complement of councillors includes a number of Labour renegades and in Liverpool the strength of the Liberal Democrats owes something to their old association

with Protestantism. There will be a "Donnygate" factor of some kind. Ian Horner, the Liberal Democrat regional co-ordinator for Yorkshire, says: "We are confident of having an increase share in

the vote but whether this will round party headquarters translate into seats we don't would have an unbreakable know. We got a massive swing lock on the process of selecting in Stainforth [where Labour lost candidates while Labour's plans a seat in a by-election in Feb- for "best value" in council services would put the squeeze on ruary] but replicating that will be difficult. We will be looking less efficient and high spending to pick up one or two seats and authorities. anything more is a bonus."

Hull where a fortnight ago Labour - tainted by allegations of corruption - lost a seat in a by-election in Boothferry. sees her party picking up a few more - which will do little to dent Labour's control of the council, but would give her party a "louder voice".

What she registers is public discontent with the performance of the council - which is boosted by a feeling that Tony Blair's administration has let people down.

"Hull is coming bottom on league tables all the time which is the responsibility both of the city and of the county council from which it inherited schools and social services, which was also Labour controlled. People are turning to us as an alternative." Lib Dem organisation, how-

ever, is weak in Labour's Yorkshire strongholds. But across the Pennines they may see gains in cities such as Oldham.

London may give the party its most spectacular gains. According to Stephen Hitchins in Islington, the fact that Londoners will also be voting in the referendum on the future shape of the capital's government will not add much to turn out. The party's best hopes, after Islington and Hackney, are the southern boroughs of Lambeth (where they are numerically the largest party). Southwark and

Yet there are signs that Labour losses, in moderation, would not be unwelcome at party headquarters. "These will be the last elections under the old dispensation," one of Mr Blair's inner circle said yesterday - meaning that next time While Deputy Prime Minis-

The picture is similar in ter (and Hull MP) John Prescott is opposed to proportional representation in local government elections, some of Mr Blair's aides are seeking alternatives to The victor, Andrea Walker, the existing set-up, if only to prevent the kind of one-party dominance it has enjoyed in places such as Doncaster.

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Tin Pan Alley set for a musical renaissance

By Clare Garner and Caron Lipman

THE area around London's Tin Pan Alley - Denmark Street, in Soho -could be revitalised if proposals for a major national music centre are approved.

The planned multi-faceted music venue, which would include a large performance space, a hotel, a television station, a radio station, a satellite link, restaurants, bars and music-themed retail outlets, would be situated near Tottenham Court Road Underground station close by Denmark Street, the traditional home of the music business

The project, dubbed Music Inc. is the brainchild of Laurence Kirschel, who has previously owned a number of music venues including Ronnie Scott's. The Rainbow, the old and new Marquees. He also developed Terence Conran's restaurant Mezzo on Dean Street. He will submit his plans for developing the heart of London's music industry to Camden Council in the next couple of months.

"The plan is to create a completely new institution, a cultural centre for all kinds of music, including everything - folk, jazz, rock 'n' roll. reggae," said a source close to the project. "Britain makes so much good music but there is no one to develop it ... It's not just a themed restaurant. It's very big and very, very expensive ... It's not one of these Planet Hollywood, 'we've got a few famous names' places. We're talk-

ing about institutional names." The source added that current music venues are badly designed, with poor facilities. Music Inc would aim to promote new bands rather than just "focusing on the golden oldies," he said. The plans include revamping Denmark Street, but the s likely to remain The street is part of a conservation locations in central London.

area with some listed buildings dating back to the 17th century.

The list of the street's past inhabitants reads like a history of rock roll. The Rolling Stones recorded "Route 66" in the then Recent Sounds Studios (No 4); the Sex Pistols lived above a shop (No 6), as did the all-girl trio Bananarama; David Bowie, Ray Davies, Tom Jones and Rod Stewart used to hung out at La Gioconda, a musicians' café (No 9). while George Harrison, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton and Mark Knopfler all frequented Andy's Guitar Workshop at No 27.

It was at Mills Music Ltd (No 20) that young Reg Dwight started his working life in the post room for the princely sum of £4.50 a week, before he became Elton John. And on 27 October 1969, he wrote his first hit, "Your Song", with Bernie Taupin. Paul McCartney, Sting, Status Quo and the Moody Blues bought instruments at Rose Morris Music (No 11), one of Britain's leading musical instrument stores. Preserved in concrete on the pavement outside are the handprints of Level 42 and Joan Armatrading.

Tommy Stecle, Adam Faith, Cliff Richard and Pctula Clark were frequent visitors at Peter Maurice Music Co, which has occupied No 21 since the 1930s. Next door, at No 22, is the UK's most famous guitar shop, Rhodes Music, patronised by the Who. Stevie Wonder and Bryan Adams. And so it goes on.

Mr Kirschel is director of Freeholder Consolidated Developments Ltd, which owns a large block of land taking in buildings between the northern end of Charing Cross Road, St Giles High Street and Denmark Street. He refused to comment on the plans "due to the sensitivity with Camden Council". Successive companies have tried and failed to develop the area, which is one of the remaining large prime-site



The beat goes on: Adam Garcia, in his first West End starring role as the disco heart-throb Tony Manero, strutting his stuff with Anita Louise Combe

Seventies fever is staying alive in the Nineties

By David Lister Arts News Editor

THE Seventies revival received its biggest test last

Reprising on (ashions and dance styles does have some sociological and historical relevance. Bringing back the Bee Gees' window-shattering falsettos is a high-risk strategy. But the impresario

Robert Stigwood, who discovered the group back in the Sixties, has kept the faith. Yesterday be opened his £4m stage musical of the 1977 hit film Saturday Night Fever in the West End. boasting not only all the Bee Gees' originals such as "Stayin' Alive" and "Night Fever", but also two new songs written by the group especially for this production.

Whether that brings in the crowds in 1998 remains to be seen.

The Seventies film made a star out of John Travolta. who, ensurprisingly, was not prepared to relive his youth on the Palladium stage. Instead, Stigwood

decided to gamble on Adam Garcia in his first West End starring role as white-suited disco heart-throb Tony Manero living for Saturday nights at the 2001 Odyssey disco, with another leading member of the cast. Simon Greiff, as Bobby C, straight out of drama school.

No risks were being taken with the choreography, which was entrusted to Arlene Phillips, the founder of the Seventies dance troupe Hot Gossip.

She also directed the production, and promised that she would bring out in the stage production the often forgotten "dark, racist Photograph: Geraint Lewis and sexist" elements of the

FIRST NIGHT: SATURDAY NIGHT **FEVER: LONDON** PALLADIUM

movie. She said in a recent interview that she was in no doubt of the current Seventies craze.

"I look at Time Out and every single week there's another Seventies club or Seventies night."

Why is that? "The music's good, it's energising, and everything comes round. Every era comes back."

It is 22 years since the rock journalist Nik Cobn largely invented (by his own admission) an article for New York magazine about working-class guys going dancing in Brooklyn.

The rights for the piece were bought by Stigwood the day the magazine appeared, and he produced a movie about it whose soundtrack sold 31 million

The show's co-producer, David Ian, was one of those whose life or at least

lifestyle was changed. He says: "I was 16 or 17 when it was released and it had an enormous impact on

"All of a sudden, dancing was cool for guys, rather than hanging out with a pint of lager."

David Ian, Stigwood and Paul Nicholas, the production team behind Saturday Night Fever, also produced Grease, now in its fifth year in the West End and also a Seventies movie hit with John Travolta.

They will be hoping the formula will strike gold again ... before the Eighties revival sets in.



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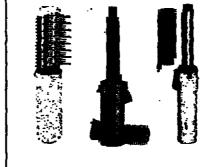
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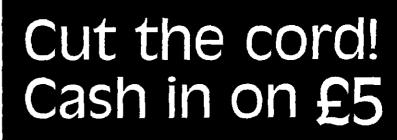
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Blair and Major set to bolster 'yes' campaign

Ireland Correspondent

THE DEBATE within the Unionist and Protestant community over the Good Friday agreement raged on yesterday with opposing factions characterising it as either the best way ahead or a constitutional calamity.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, is due in Belfast today, together with John Major, for a visit which the pro-agreement forces hope will galvanise a sofar lacklustre campaign leading up to the May 22nd referen-

The "yes" campaign has to date been a quiet affair, partly because many of those in favour tend to support it not with great enthusiasm but because they feel it is the leastworst, or possibly the only op-



By contrast the "no" campaign, unsurprisingly for an enterprise led by the Rev Ian Paisley, has been much more conspicuous and vociferous. But although it has generated more activity it has yet to create a sense of momentum or a bandvagon effect within Unionism.

The Presbyterian church, the largest Protestant denomination in Northern Ireland, yesterday delivered a judgement on the agreement which stopped short of calling for a "yes" vote. Its detailed critique of the accord none the less applauded many parts of it, leaving the impres-

tence read: "The agreement to stick with this until my pardoes not represent defeat or assimilation but is rather a political accommodation which could be a way out of the darkness of the last 30 years into a

On the Unionist political front the language deployed was less restrained. A loose confederation of anti-agreement elements including Mr Paisley's party, Robert McCartney's UK Unionists and dissenting members of David Trimble's Ulster Unionists, formally launched their campaign with the slogan "It's right to say no."

Mr McCartney declared: "It is a positive campaign. A 'ves' vote means the end of our link with Britain." Of Mr Trimble he said: "This man is putty gotiators.'

ty comes to its senses

A pointed rejoinder to the "no" campaign came from the Progressive Unionist Party, some of whose leading memtences for involvement in loyalist violence.

Billy Hutchinson, a party spokesman, said: "All of those people out there in the 'no' campaign had better take responsibility. If they are going to frighten people with a united Ireland then they will be responsible for creating more deaths. Those people who say we are on a road to a united Ireland had better realise that they are making people very, very nervous and this is making people pull triggers."

Meanwhile, six republican risoners were transferred from British to Irish jails yesterday.



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No surrender to settlement in heartland of the hard-liners

THERE IS little welcome for the peace settlement at Portadown, the unyielding heartland one of fatalism and anger. The Loyalist cause has been, they say, casually tossed away in the interest of political expediency.

The view in this town, where Protestants make up 73 per cent of the population, is that decades of bombing and shooting by the Provisional IRA has ended with Sinn Fein getting what they wanted over tea and piscuits at Stormont.

Portadown is the constituency of Ulster Unionist course campaigning for a yes vote. But it is also the home town of Billy Wright, the murdered leader of the Loyalist Volunteer Force. Supporters of the paramilitary say that since the politicians have betrayed them, the only option left is relentless and violent direct action.

It is no empty threat. The Good Friday peace accord was followed by a series of sectarian attacks on Catholics, including the murders of a 29-year-old man at Portadown, and a 22-year-old student at Crumlin, Co Antrim. The security sources blamed the LVF.

Portadown will also be the location of one of the most potentially explosive confrontations of the coming months, the Orange Order Drumcree march through the Catholic Garvachy Road

Last Friday the recently instituted Parades Commission issued restrictions on two Loyalist marches. At Portadown, Protestant activists declare such interference will not be tolerated when it comes to Drumcree. Ivor Young's rapidly growing

Concerned Protestants Committee will be co-ordinating many of the planned marches and rallies of the marching season. On his front room wall hangs a sketch of Orangemen parading to Drumcree Parish

Mr Young said: "We do not accept this Parades Commission, they are just representing the British Government. They have no right to tell us what to do. The people will be going to their church at Drumcree. It is not the Loyalists who cause trouble there, it is the Nationalists whipped up by Sinn Fein/IRA.

"David Trimble has let us down badly. If he stands here Drumeree 98." again I don't think he'll get back in, he is just one of the politicians who has sold us down the

"Of course there will be violence in the future. I don't think Tony Blair understands the situation; the Loyalists have been left with no option but to fight back. What he doesn't understand is that we could be seeing things which are 10 times

worse than anything that has gone on before."

In the town centre blasted last year by a 500lb IRA bomb, Richard Armstrong, 42, a company director, says he has of Ulster Protestantism. In- no time for Loyalist paramilistead, the mood among many is taries but is also against the

He said: "Unlike a lot of people, I have actually studied all things to all men. I can't see how it can work when the United Ireland. If the referendum was held tomorrow I would vote no."

There were, however, a few voices of hope. Susan Johnston, 53, is at pains to point out that



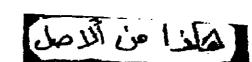
'David Trimble has let us down badly. If he stands here again, I don't think he'll get back in'

people are simply too weary and battered by the years of strife. "I was so happy about the agreement at Easter that I actually got drunk for the first time in 10 years. My husband was

most shocked," she said. This is our last chance, we have had 28 years of the troubles and it has got us nowhere. We simply do not want any more killings in the future. It's got to stop."

Whether that happens or not may well be out of the hands of people like her. Less than 200 yards from where she stood speaking, rising above the red, white and blue kerb stones of the Protestant estates are the murals mourning the martyrdom of Billy Wright, and the slogans of Loyalism's defiant last stand. "LVF - the true defenders", "No Surrender", and "Marching Not Talking -





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Push to the summit promises to take the breath away



Everest Diary

Base Camp

HIS could be my last diary from Base Camp before our push for the 8,848m summit of Everest. The weather is still unsettled, sun in the morning and snow showers in the afternoon, but we have had a favourable forecast and Dave Walsh, our guide, is keen to move up to a higher camp to be poised should a summit opportunity arise.

Lengthy, that is diary length, communication from higher camps is unlikely. The team has VHF radios for operational and emergency use but the only diary pieces I have got down from higher up during our earlier acclimatisation climbs have been written on paper and carried down to Base Camp by a Sherpa for onward transmission by friends.

So this may be the occasion for me to talk of my hopes and fears before once again we enter the moving labyrinth of the Khumbu Icefall en route to Advanced Base Camp (Camp 2). Hopes are simple. 1 would like to get as high as possible consistent with getting down safely. Unlike my team-mates on this commercial expedition, marketed by Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions of Sheffield, I have not personally invested £25,000 to £30,000 in attempting to climb to the top of the

world, and I have no flag to wave. I feel some sympathy for Josie Kieran, the 44-year old nurse from Dundalk, who is carrying an Irish flag presented to her by the president, Mary McAleese.

Josie would be the first Irish woman to the summit. Though she would probably brush aside my concern that the "flag and the first" are potentially dangerous pressures - liable to push one beyond a point of safe return - history suggests it is real enough. Flags and nationalism have been a bane of mountaineering.



For Josie, more hillwalker than climber, it is going to be a testing few days. So I have fears for my teammates, all of whom have more invested in the summit, financially and emotionally, than I do.

This morning, before breakfast, I lay in my sleeping bag and re-read Sir Edmund Hillary's account of reaching the summit with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953 - the first

sheer physically wearying ordeal of it - even for a supremely fit man, as the big New Zealander certainly was

I am no Hillary and exhaustion is one of my fears. Going up the Lhotse Face to Camp 3 at 7,200m was sapping enough. This time we will have bottled oxygen from then on. But I will have to carry two bot-

ascent. What comes through is the ties on my back and what if the Russian-made system malfunctions or freezes in the bitter cold?

So far I have coped pretty well with altitude and have had no bad headaches. We have done all the right things about acclimatising slowly - goodness, we have been in Nepal for nearly seven weeks. So maybe I am being irrational, but even so the possibility of serious altitude sickness striking suddenly, and my not being able to descend quickly to relieve it, is perhaps my biggest fear.

Another nagging worry around the camp, certainly among the clients, is how closely engaged the Sherpas are in our enterprise. John Hunt is unstinting in his praise for the Sherpas' "magnificent" effort in 1953 and their co-operation in the essential teamwork of the whole party.

Well our nine Sherpas seem a friendly, cheerful enough bunch but I suspect the idea of teamwork and joint enterprise has faded since 1953. It is hardly surprising. Everest climbing is business. Just as we are a commercial expedition, Sher-

a price and often in a manner they themselves largely dictate. Perhaps I should dispel a myth

pas are contractors, doing a job for

Dear Diary: Stephen Goodwin at Base Camp yesterday preparing for the summit assault Photograph: Sundeep Dhillon using a Fuji DS-300 digital camera

that may linger in some minds. Everest expeditions do not advance up the mountain with the lightly ladened sahibs followed Indian-file by bow-backed Sherpas, cooks and cook boys. On the mountain, we hardly ever see our Sherpas, except coming in the opposite direction. Both groups carry out their tasks independently.

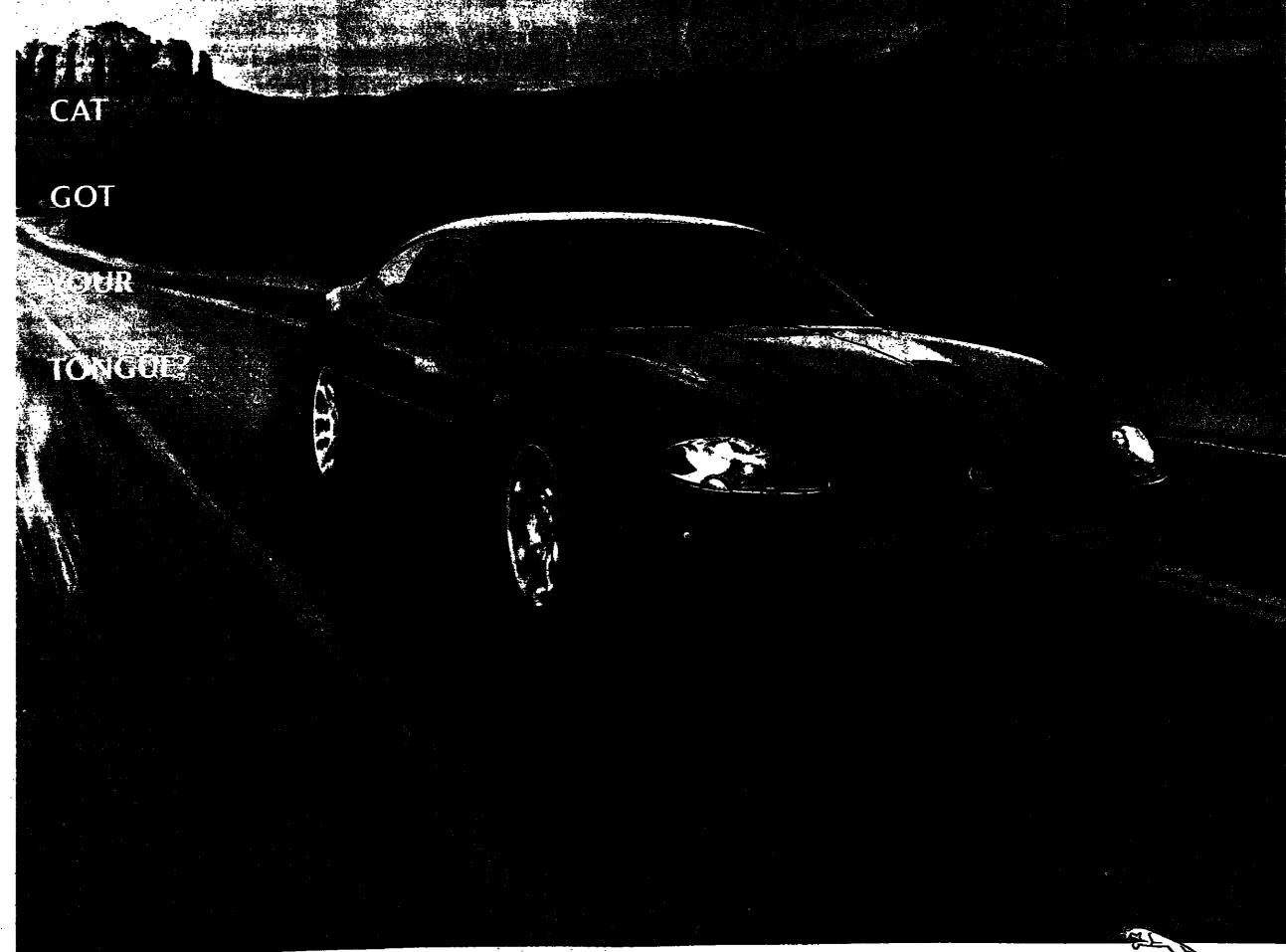
Sherpas these days are analogous to jobbing builders. You employ them, but they will have their own fixed ideas about how best to do the iob and when they will turn up or knock off for tea.

Unfortunately our Sherpas seem to have decided not all the team will get high on Everest and therefore, contrary to instructions, they did not need to put up another tent at Camp 3 where last month we crammed three people into each of two cosy two-man tents.

The job should have been done days ago while we were away down the valley in Dingboche. Dave Walsh will now have to insist on another tent, but the Sherpas' bolshy stubbornness does not augur well for the vitally necessary co-operation we will need at the South Col and

A signal difference, of course, between the 1953-type expedition and commercial ventures such as ours is over the selection of summiteers. Hunt, or Chris Bonington in his big 1970s climbs, could pick the strongest pair for the summit bid and the rest of the party would have to be content with some reflected glory as part of the team.

On a commercial trip, once the punter has paid his or her £25,000. he or she must feel entitled to an equal shot at the summit, no matter how illusory, or even dangerous, the guides - or Sherpas - may feel



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DON'T DREAM IT. DRIVE IT.

Arafat fights last-ditch battle for his health

By Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

HOW sick is Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader? For several years his visitors have noticed he sometimes tucks his hands under his legs when he is sitting down to conceal the fact that they are shaking. Diplomats have seen him taking pills prescribed by his doctors, but do not know details of his med-

an informal committee to advise on the state of Mr Arafat's health. It decided he did not have Parkinson's disease. though he does have many of the symptoms, such as shaking limbs and lips and fixed eyes.

His closest aides are protective. They say many of the signs of his deteriorating health

are the consequence of his plane crash in Libya on 7 April

Several months after the crash doctors in Jordan removed a blood clot in his brain, an apparent result of the crash

Mr Arafat is 69 and works famously hard, particularly at night. Few decisions in the Palestinian Authority, which runs Gaza and the Palestinian enclaves on the West Bank, are reached without him.

But since Benjamin Netanyahu was elected Israeli prime minister in 1996 the Palestinian leader has been depressed - his depression sometimes coming close to a nervous

He speaks less in English than he used to, and his aides seem to coach him more.

Mr Arafat's memory is fading. He is as deft as ever in manoeuvring within Palestinian

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relations with the Islamic miliany length about the Oslo acproblems have more to do with Mr Netanyahu's intransi- leader is sticking to his stratepolitics as was demonstrated gence. The Israeli leader is gy of trying to cultivate Amerprepared to talk at almost ican, European and Arab the present status quo.

tant group Hamas. His political cord, but not to implement it. on Israel. He has steered away

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Nevertheless, the Palestinian from suggestions that the Palestinians need to prove on the

Mazen, who negotiated so Arafat's popular appeal among much of the Oslo agreement, is the 6 million Palestinians in his most obvious successor. But the world and his reputation as whoever takes over will de- an old revolutionary, as well as pend on the Palestinian securi- a diplomat.

yesterday after meeting Tony Blair, Observers have commented on the Palestinian leader's sickly Since Netanyahu was elected. the Palestinian leader has suffered serious depression

> **Albright** shows her

> fear of Netanyahu

By Robert Fisk Middle East Correspondent

THERE was a moment yesterday morning that captured the hopelessness of the Middle East "peace process". On a sofa just outside the coffee salon of the Churchill Hotel in London there slumped a familiar figure. There was no obvious security, just a tall, State Department spokesman and the woman sitting white-faced with exhaustion on the settee.

she was on the point of collapse. It was prepared to evacuate to telephoned Yasser Arafat to Mr Arafat is not going to get a plead her excuses. She could not come to see him as agreed, she said. She was simply too tired to drive over to Claridges for their meeting. Arafat burst into

laughter when the call was over. Never mind that his own state of health - shocking to behold when only a few feet from him - was far worse than Mrs Albright's. But when it came to Benjamin Netanyahu, a few hours later, Mrs Albright was off in her limousine to meet the Israeli Prime Minister at his hotel.

And what came over most strongly yesterday was Mrs Albright's fear of Mr Netanyahu, indeed perhaps her fear of Israel. Mr Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organisation Palestinian state on this little had already accepted America's rump of territory, carved up as conditions for the 11 May invitation to meet President Bill Clinton in Washington. Mr Netanyahu had not responded. of progress - she used the word He was flying back to Israel to at least 18 times in just a few minconsult his cabinet. But when Mrs Albright talked to us later - hesitant and sometimes confusing or forgetting questions she was all praise for the Israeli Prime Minister who is forging ahead with Jewish settlements on the land Mr Arafat wants as part of his Palestinian state.

Mr Netanyahu, we heard, was encouraging. He had produced "new ideas". He was enthusiastic. He was "helpful." She was very grateful to Mr Netanyahu. As for Israel's security demands - which now include a decrease in the number of Mr Arafat's policemen - "it is obviously up to Israel to decide what its security demands are __"

But that was the whole point. Since Israel, on "security" grounds, is still refusing to give up more than 9 per cent of occupied land - an odd 11 per cent figure surfaced during the day although the Israelis would not officially confirm it - this effectively gave Israel the right to decide on the size of its withdrawals.

When we asked Mrs Albright what all those new ideas were - what possible progress she could be talking about after two days in which Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat couldn't details do not help us to move forward". It was an odd phrase

- but not as surprising as the admission that US proposals for Washington talks included an immediate move to what in the Oslo agreement are called "final status talks" - something that Mr Netanyahu has been demanding for the past 12 months.

So what did this mean? According to Mrs Albright, an "accelerated peace process". But a glance at the Oslo treaty shows that it would probably allow Israel to stall on any further withdrawals - or reduce the Madeleine Albright looked like amount of occupied Arab land Only hours before, she had a mere 25 per cent, if that. And



Benjamin Netanyahu: No sign of his 'new ideas'

it already is by roads exclusively for the use of Jewish settlers.

Yet still Mrs Albright talked utes. And so did Tony Blair an hour earlier. Only Mr Arafat, partly stooped as he stood outside 10 Downing Street, gave any clue to the fantasy world in which the negotiators were immersing themselves. He had "heard" from Mrs Albright, he said, that there had been "some progress" and he would go wher-

ever necessary to save peace. It was when I asked him if he did not now regret signing the Oslo agreement with Israel that the old man's eyes suddenly widened and his voice took on its old strength. "The peace agreement I signed was the peace of the brave," he replied. signed with my partners Yitzhak Rabin, who paid with his life for this peace. It is our firm duty that we continue with the just endeavour we signed

with Mr Rabin and Peres. There was deliberately no mention of Mr Netanyahu. Indeed, in none of the sound-bites he uttered yesterday did the Israeli leader come close to Mr Arafat's albeit familiar promise. Nor did Mrs Albright. She remarked of America's peacemaking efforts that "it's up to the parties [to decide] as to whether we are serving the vegetables even bring themselves to talk to well." Perhaps that will be writeach other on the telephone - ten on Oslo's tombstone. By we were informed that "more contrast, Mr Arafat was momentarily in Jefferson mode.

Leading article, page 20

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French and German views on the row over the central bank chief are poles apart. John Lichfield reports from Paris and Imre Karacs from Bonn

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AVIGNON, famously, has a bridge which reaches only halfway across the river. It may provide a suitable metaphor for the state of Franco-German relations when leaders of the two countries meet in the beautiful town on the Rhone delta today.

The timing of the summit, four days after the unpleasant French-German quarrel around the cradle of the newly born euro, is either fortunate or unfortunate. The great likelihood is that President Jacques Chirac and Chancellor Helmut Kohl will seize the opportunity to give a public display of friendship and understanding (falling just short of dancing tous en rond on the bridge itself). It is in the interests of both men and both countries to do so: there is, in any case, nothing pressing left for them to quarrel about. The question remains: just how much damage was done to the Franco-German alliance - the foundationstone of the European Union - by the weekend squabble?

Some French commentators have slated Mr Chirac for behaving in such a British way and holding the rest of the EU to ransom over a point of detail. Most have brushed off the affair as the usual unseemly haggling and shricking which accompanies any great decision in the EU. The fact that the incident has been treated relatively lightly in France, and



stubbornness. Mr Chirac's point

was mostly to win a rare, per-

sonal point (as a lame-duck

right-wing President, having to

live with a left-of-centre gov-

ernment); and partly to assert

the ultimate right of politi-

cians, and of France, to influ-

grief? In the French view, some

of the German emotion has

been cranked up for the voters.

But why, then, did the divided

French give such pain to Chan-

But was that worth such

ence such appointments.

with great fury and indignation in Germany, is itself part of the story: the two countries may be inescapable of allies but they seem no longer to understand one another very well.

It was important for Mr Chirac to impose the French banker. Jean-Claude Trichet, as eventual head of the European central bank, for personal-political reasons, more than national-political reasons. Mr Trichet is, in truth, disliked by French politicians, including Mr Chirac, because he is seen as too German, too much of a pin-striped banker; too much of a strong-currency man. It was inevitable that Ger-

man, and British, commentators would see this as a French attempt to make the bank more political and more biddable. Under Mr Trichet, this is unlikely. It is significant that the markets, despite doomsday predictions from British Euro-sceptics, have taken a relaxed view of the weekend's brawl. The markets seem to be saying it does not make a blind bit of difference whether Mr Trichet or Dutch banker Wim Duisenberg is head of the European central bank. Why did the French President make such a fuss?

nership remains an immovable feature of the domestic, political landscape in both countries. The fundamentals have not changed. Both countries are inescapably committed to the EU and therefore to one another. The advent of the euro, arguably, condemns Paris and Bonn to get on more than ever before. But there is a difference between rubbing along, with periodic bursts of tension, and getting on well. How effectively Paris and Bonn work together is crucial to a series of decisions in the next few years on the running of the single currency and enlargement of the EU to the east (potentially the biggest of all sources of Franco-German tension). It will, it seems, be up to a new generation of politicians to solve this puzzle. Mostly personal pride and cellor Kohl, France's greatest

One lesson is that the French establishment has written off Mr Kohl. Mr Chirac calculated he had no need to please the old man any more.

ally and friend, in the run-up to

the most difficult election of his

career? The truth is that, emo-

Mitterrand-Kohl in the 1980s or

Giscard-Schmidt in the 1970s.

tionally, the French-German Almost exactly a year after relationship is not as solid as it Mr Chirac shot himself in the was. A new generation of politicians in both countries - even foot by calling an early general election, the French (Social-Mr Chirac, who was 13 in 1945 - are not so preoccupied by the ist) European Affairs Minister, Pierre Moscovici, is reported to war. There is no personal relationship between Paris and have commented, snidely: "Chirac put the left in power in Bonn to match the genuine France in 1997; he's going to put warmth and understanding of the social democrats in power in Germany in 1998."



Small world: Japanese celebrate Children's Day yesterday at the Fuji Gulliver Kingdom park at Kamikuishiki, north-west of Tokyo

Kohl squirms in face of bankers' gloomy verdict

BONN - At what age are in- tween now and September, ternational statesmen over the when the Chancellor goes to the hill? Helmut Kohl, 68 years country for a fifth term. The imyoung and fresh from a slim- pression that he allowed himming course, is trying to per-self to be bulldozed aside by the suade German voters he has French President will certainly another four years in him. Wim linger till election day. Duisenberg, in contrast, is an emaciated 62-year-old who clearly could not be expected to today in front of an emergency soldier on for eight years as head of the European Central

This, in essence, is the disingenuous line the German Chancellor has found himself selling since his return from Brussels. He was, he admitted, "extremely annoyed" with the horse-trading but did not consider the outcome dishouourable. Election posters saluting the "stable euro" under tween France and Germany. Mr Kohl's benevolent gaze were still prominently displayed outside Christian Democrat headquarters yesterday.

The "little family row" in Brussels, a senior CDU politician predicted, would be forgotten, perhaps, in five years. In the interim, the party must fight an uphill election battle on the EMU "achievement" without drawing too much attention to the humiliation just meted out to its chief architect.

"Helmut Kohl has certainly been damaged by this," admitted Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister. Though the money markets took the débacle in their stride, Germany's angstridden money-men are de-

"The government heads cessor [to Duisenberg] and this is a breach of the [Maastricht] Treaty," lamented Klaus-Dieter Kühbacher, a member of the all-powerful Bundesbank cessors Council. "The next breach of the treaty is pre-programmed."

When the Bundesbank worthe Prozac. It matters little the departure of François Mitwhat currency traders do be- terrand, is about to snap.

It is with this in mind that the Chancellor must defend himself debate in the Bundestag, and then put on his smiling face for the meeting in Avignon with Brother Jacques. Another family squabble can, perhaps, be concealed this time from peeping neighbours, but the damage has been done.

The minority of the German media that remain loyal to Mr Kohl speak of "long-term scars" to the special relationship be-

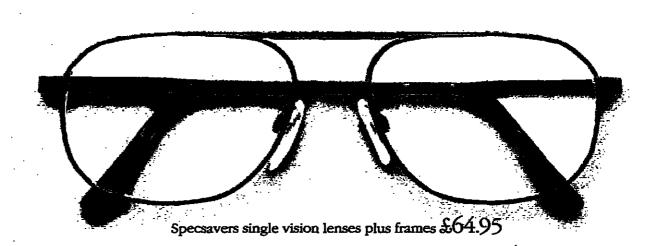
Francophiles in the Chancellor's entourage feel betrayed: the strategy of a common front with France on all major issues of European integration has been fatally undermined by the

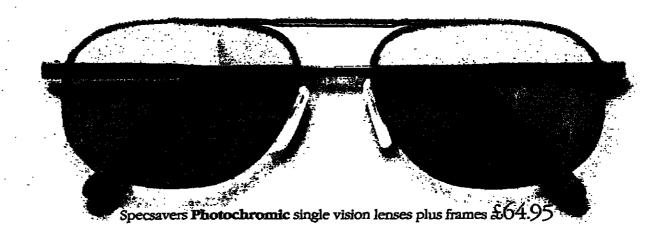
The mighty Bundesbank, which has grudgingly turned a blind eye to French accounting tricks in the past, will not forget this. Frankfurt as well as the politicians on both sides of Bonn's parliamentary divide blame President Chirac, and are openly contemptuous of his "pursual of French national in-

terests at all cost". How Chancellor Kohl feels about the weekend's events is somewhat less relevant, given the prospect of his imminent rethrement, thanks partly to his have already named the suc- friends in Paris. But the highhanded way in which he was treated at the weekend is seen as an affront to all of Germany: a grudge to be borne by his suc-

The infamy of Brussels is thus set to mark a turningpoint. The Franco-German axis, ries, German voters reach for more of a myth than a fact since

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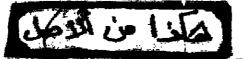
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surprising, least of all to Mr Freud, that med do indeed have one track minus.

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in central St Petersburg in preparation for the Victory Day celebrations on Saturday

SA rugby on brink of boycott over race row

in Johannesburg

PRESSURE is mounting for the resignation today of South Africa's rugby supremo, Louis Luyt, 24 hours before an ultimatum runs out for him to stand down or face an international boycott which could cripple the

"Big Louis", the bluff, controversial president of the South African Rugby Football Union, (Sarfu) is accused of presiding over a game tarnished by racism, nepotism, mismanagement and financial irregularities. He resisted attempts by President Nelson Mandela to launch an inquiry into the allegations against rugby, which Mr Luyt's critics claim he runs as if it were his fiefdom. Four years ago rugby, a near-religion for many Afrikaners and often an excuse

for displays of racism and rightwing political sentiment during the apartheid era, was heralded by Mr Mandela as a sport which yet had the power to help rebuild the nation. Today there are still no black

players in the national team and only five non-whites among more than 100 players in the Super 12 competition. The rugby establishment is accused of doing nothing to take the game to the townships. Racism allegations were not helped by the resignation last year of Andre Markgraaff the national coach, after he was recorded referring to black rugby officials as "kaffirs". Last month a South African player was sent home from a tour of New Zealand after calling a black South African female fan a "kaffir".

The National Sport Council issued its boycott threat last

Luyt: A regime tainted by claims of racism and graft

month after Mr Mandela was forced to defend his political decision in court, when Sarfu challenged his right to launch an inquiry. The Sports Council accused Mr Luyt of "humiliating" the President and demanded his resignation, along with his entire executive. A the South African rugby team pariahs again.

Neither the Sports Council nor Mr Luyt is budging. Yesterday the Natal Rugby Union called for him to take voluntary redundancy for the good of the game. Mluleki George, the Sports

Council president, suggested might be sufficient to avert the not go, a ban on international games would come into opera-The first casualty would be the would lose the wider war. Irish tour due this month.

cil was lobbying the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) to back the boycott, already blessed by the Sports Minister, Steve Tshwete, and is believed to have the support of Mr Mandela's cabinet, which might soon be notifying foreign governments that their rugby teams are not welcome in South

Cosatu yesterday called for the resignation of William de Villiers, the judge who ordered Mr Mandela to appear in court and who ruled two weeks ago that the government had no right to investigate Sarfu.

He has yet to give his reasons for the ruling. A Cosatu spokesman criticised the judge for calling the President to court and said he was treating Mr Mandela and the country with contempt by delaying the reasons for his judgement. Rugby experts and sponsors, who have also called on Mr Luyt to go, say disaster looms and not just in South Africa. Australian and New Zealand rugby officials said the dispute between Sarfu and the government could force cancellation of this year's lucrative Tri-nations series.

Yesterday a phone conference between rugby officials from all three countries was cansuccessful boycott would make 'celled at the last minute. "We decided ... to wait and see how things unfold," said Dick Mc-Gruther, the Australian Rugby Union (ARU) chairman. "It's a South African problem that we are confident they will be able to resolve and we wanted to allow them that opportunity before we get involved."

He said the ARU would Mr Luyt's resignation alone discuss the matter with the Australian government before boycott but warned that if he did deciding what further action to take. During the court case, sponsors warned that even if Mr tion by the end of the month. Luyt won the legal battle he

Mr Luyt, it seems, is the last Yesterday the Sports Coun- to accept the inevitable. The rugby writer Barry Glasspool said yesterday that even by his own stubborn standards, Mr Luyt's stand was "breathtaking". Glasspool said it was inconceivable the NSC would back down now. Whatever Mr Luyt believed, "rugby cannot operate without harmonious relations with the government and the Sports Council."

Croat death to face court

By Phil Davison Latin America Correspondent

IT WAS more than half a century later and a continent away but Dinko Sakic's leer was the same, His alleged victims -Jews, Serbs and gypsies - went to their deaths watching that same twisted smile on the face of their concentration camp commander.

As his neighbours booed and jeered, Sakic, 76, pulled the derisory smile for photographers in Argentina when he was arrested last week on suspicion of war crimes. He is expected to be extradited to his native Croatia shortly to face trial in connection with tens of thousands of deaths at the notorious Jasenovac concentration camp.

Sakic admits he ran Jasenovac but insists that no one was exterminated and that the victims merely fell sick. "They died from an epidemic of typhoid. There were no cremation ovens," he stated. His lawyer said he would not fight extradition and would base his defence on the epidemic argument.

His wife, Nada, also said by Holocaust survivors to have taken part in exterminations. has not been detained by the Argentinians.

Sakic and his wife had lived unnoticed in Argentina for 51 years but he stunned his neighbours in the Atlantic coastal resort of Santa Teresita last month by revealing his fascist past in a television interview. He said



Israelis

at Pales

Austria

Barrier

Dinko Sakic: Ran camp at Jasenovac during WW2

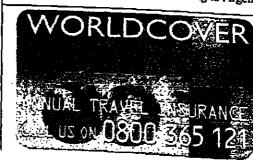
was a Nazi puppet state set up

by Hitler as a buffer against Under pressure from his country's powerful Jewish com-

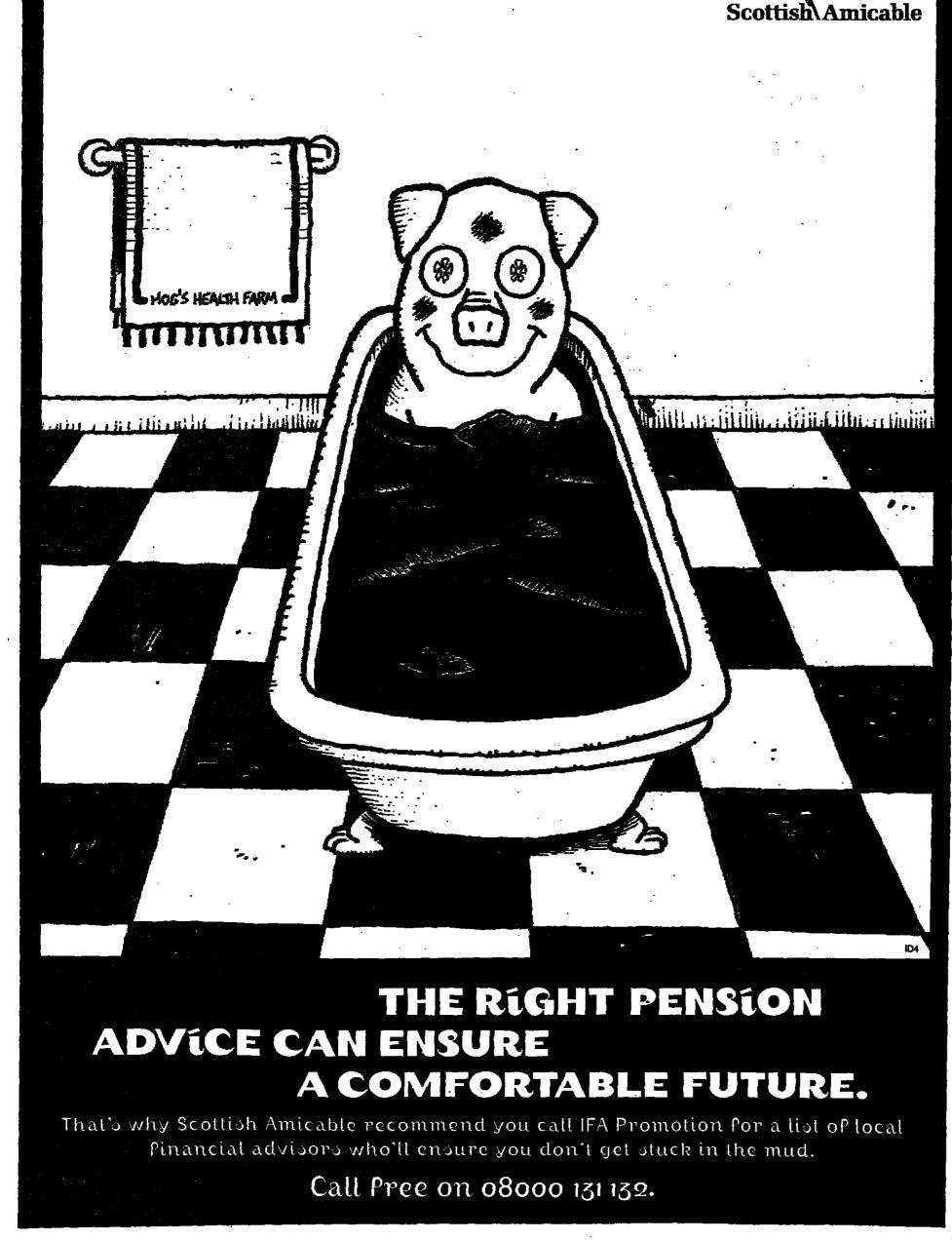
munity, who have criticised the presence of ex-Nazis in the past. the Argentinian President, Carlos, Menem ordered his arrest.

Croatia admits that tens of thousands of Serbs. Jews and gypsics were exterminated at Jasenovac. But Serbs, Jewish groups and many historians say the figure was in the hundreds of thousands, and was comparable to Hitler's own concentration camps inside Germany and Nazi-occupied territory.

Sakic was 21 when he took control of Jasenovac in 1942 under the Nazi-backed Ustashe government of Croatia. He also oversaw another concentration camp at Stara Gradiska, southcast of Zagreb. After the war and the triumph of Tito's communists in Yugoslavia he first received shelter in Franco's Spain before fleeing to Argentina in 1947.







death

chief

First Lady escapes criminal indictment

By Mary Dejevsky in Washington

a dubious precedent for First Ladies when she was sumprosecutors last year, will not be fence, it was confirmed yesterday - at least not vet.

Mrs Clinton had been questioned six times in the labyrinthine Whitewater investigation, most recently 10 days ago when her evidence was videotaped for presentation to the grand jury.

Lawyers close to the invessome of the evidence gathered during the Whitewater inquiry counts of tax evasion and fraud. could be submitted to the two Mr Hubbell, who has already other grand juries currently investigating alleged wrongdo- for fraud in connection with ing by the Clintons. One is considering the First Lady's in- the new charges as a fresh atvolvement in dismissing mem- tempt by Mr Starr to extract inbers of the White House travel criminating evidence from him office and the possible misuse by the White House of FBI files; the other - whether Mr Clinton may have had an affair with a a feverish bout of Washington White House intern, Monica political in-fighting over taped Lewinsky, and induced her to lie about it under oath.

Clinton concentrated on legal work she transacted for a failed Arkansas bank more than a than he had divulged. Late on decade ago. She was then a partner in the Rose law firm and her Democrats, the full tapes were husband was state governor.

The Clintons had invested in the speculative development Mrs Clinton. project known as Whitewater. which was backed by the bank. in the clear over Whitewater, They were suspected of abusing neither she nor President Clintheir influence to benefit them- ton are out of the woods yet. As selves and their associates - if reasserting his authority, Mr even though the project failed Starr yesterday called Vernon and the Clintons say they lost Jordan, an influential black money. That Mrs Clinton would businessman and presidential not be indicted had been fore- confidante, to testify for the cast with increasing confidence third time before the Washingin Washington in recent weeks ton grand jury in the Lewinsky as the Arkansas grand jury ap- case. Mr Clinton's private secproached the end of its mandate. Legal specialists agreed pected to be re-called. Both are the indictment of a First Lady was unlikely without conclusive evidence of criminal activity.

much of her husband's presidency has thus been lifted. Other Clinton associates have been arranged for her by Mr Jordan.

less fortunate. The Clintons' former business partner, Susan McDougal, became the last HILLARY CLINTON, who set person to be indicted in connection with Whitewater on Monday, when she was charged moned for questioning by state on three counts of refusing to testify and obstructing justice. indicted for any criminal of- Mrs McDougal has already spent 18 months in prison for civil contempt for refusing to testify. She claims independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr has put pressure on her to implicate Mrs Clinton.

The other, Webster Hubbell, a former partner - with Mrs Clinton - in the Rose law form and former number three at the tigation stressed, however, that US Justice Department, has also been indicted on multiple served an 18-month sentence Whitewater, says he regards against Mrs Clinton

Mr Hubbell subsequently found himself at the centre of conversations between himself and his wife while he was in jail. The allegations against Mrs These suggested Mr Hubbell might know more about Hillary Clinton's legal work in Arkansas Monday, amid an outcry from released, which showed Mr Hubbell specifically absolving

While Mrs Clinton might be retary, Betty Curry, is also exsuspected of concealing what they know about the relationship between Mr Clinton and The judicial shadow that Ms Lewinsky, in particular has hung over Mrs Clinton for whether Ms Lewinsky's silence may have been "bought" by a' well-paying private-sector job

Israelis accused of shooting at Palestinian reporters

ISRAELI soldiers have been deliberately firing on Palestinian journalists covering unrest in the occupied territories, according to a report by the French-based Reporters sans Frontieres. RSF, which defends press freedom worldwide, says 25 journalists have been wounded in this way in the past 18 months. In the most recent incident, eight journalists were wounded by rubber bullets fired by Israeli soldiers while covering demonstrations in Hebron on 13 March. RSF says that it is extremely concerned about the increase in violent acts by the Israeli army against journalists in the occupied terri-tories and called on the government to open an inquiry.

Austria marks Holocaust

FOR the first time, Austria yesterday honoured victims of the Holocaust with a national day of remembrance. A solemn, nationally televised sitting of both houses of parliament and a performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank," written by the Russian Jewish composer Grigory Fried and sung by a young Israeli soprano, formed the highlight of several commemo-

Serbs warn of Kosovo war

A LEADING Serb official in Kosovo warned international powers to pressure ethnic Albanians to give up their goal of independence, or face the threat of a wider Balkan war. Veljko Odalovic, the deputy director of the Kosovo Serb government, said that such pressure "would solve many of the problems" in Serbia's ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo province. The warning came amid reports that Albanian militants killed two more people and were battling Serbian police near Kosovo's border with Albania for the third consecutive day.

Barrier Reef faces ruin

AUSTRALIAS Great Barrier Reef appears to be experiencing its worst case of coral bleaching. Australian marine scientists say it has hit more than 60 per cent of 3,000 coral reefs on the country's north-east coast. The bleaching is caused by rising sea temperatures and freshwater flooding. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest marine park in the world and is home to more than 300 species of coral, 4,000 shell molluses, 1,500 species of fish and several endangered species, including dugongs and loggerhead turtles.



Students and police clash during protests yesterday in Java against President Suharto

Photograph: Reuters

Indonesia police fire on rioters

By Stephen Vines

SERIOUS rioting has broken out in the Indonesian city of Medan in which the police have fired live bullets at demonstrators. It is the first time police have taken such measures since civil unrest erupted this year in response to the country's economic austerity pro-

There were reports that several protesters were injured by bullets as rioting spilled onto the town's main highway. An angry crowd is also said to have torched a police station. Thousands of rioters also looted Chineseowned stores in Medan.

Previously most protests in the Sumatran capital were confined to students but a police spokesman said yesterday: "It's not a pure student protest anymore, because it involves ordinary people.

There are thousands of angry people trying to burn houses. They are burning tyres and

turning over cars." In the Indonesian capital Jakarta there was more violence as students called for the removal of President Suharto. Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd. At least five police officers and 25 students are reported to have been injured. There were also clashes between students and police in Ban-

dung, Java.
The latest protests emerged after the government moved to implement austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund in return for a \$43ba bailout of the failing economy. Petrol prices have risen 71 per cent and kerosene, used as a cooking fuel by the poor, rose 25 per cent as a result of the. end of government subsidies.

Birmingham welcomes visitors to the International Motor Show.

(Now, there's a city that's really motoring.)

the nec birmingham



How the wild West End will be won

'Rent' has reinvented the musical on Broadway. Can an HIV rock opera do the same here? By David Benedict

THERE are no two ways about it. Rest came as bolt out of the blue. A contemporary rock opera in which La Bohème meets HIV was no-one's idea of a smashhit, but at its explosive Broadway opening two years ago, Rent was hailed as having single-handedly reinvented the musical for a whole new generation. It won everything in sight, including the Pulitzer prize; it's still doing 100 per cent business despite a top price of \$80; and on Tuesday it opens at London's Shaftesbury Theatre.

There are a hundred and one local factors from subject matter - love in the time of Aids - to its milieu grungy East Village types struggling with the art vs money conundrum which explain the show's monster success, but will it travel? "Hey!," laughs Jeffrey Seller, its young, excitable and, presumably, now wealthy, producer. "I feel like there's a referendum going on here. Will Rest work in London?"

Well, will it? There's solid insuroriginal leads reprising their roles, ticket can cost about that, but variations on Shaw's "two nations divided by a common language" industry. At its simplest, Rent, the creation of the late composer, writer and lyricist Jonathan Larson, follows a what's the problem? Take a look at the context. The easy mix of race, gender and sexuality springs naturally from the world in which it was created, but that's a long way from Loncular heroine Mimi as an HIV-pos-Manhattan but thus far, for many

lately grown more adventurous. that." Trainspotting, Popcom and notably Shopping and Fucking have confounded expectations by not only enjoying almost indecently healthy runs, but also attracting an adventheatrical heartland. As in New York, he's courting that crowd with a youth-orientated marketing cam- and bored. "It's fair to say." he anpaign (the posters don't even say it's a musical) and £10 day tickets for job." He filled his spare time workanyone who wants to queue for ing on off-off-Broadway shows with



ance up front with four of the show's front row seats. A West End cinema

With successful previews behind him - "I'm hearing whistling and can be heard resounding around the laughter and thunderous applause seven or eight times a night - he brims with confidence, believing that the show's relationships win over year in the life of three young cou- audiences, even those to whom the ples who fall in and out of love. So plot elements might seem foreign.

e cites the three versions currently touring the USA and Canada. "In Dallas, Texas, which is the hotbed of what we might don's West End. Similarly, Larson's call conservative, right-wing assreimagining of, say, Puccini's tuber- holes, we sold out. That wasn't because of the racial mix, HIV or the itive drug-user reflects the horrific bohemianism. We win them over incidence of HIV infection in with heart. Ultimately, it's a story about young people trying to realise people. London's rate of infection their version of the American just doesn't have the same urgency. Dream, and trying to figure out how Conversely, Seller can take solace to love and connect. Getting together from the fact that the West End has and breaking up, we all know about

> knowledged to be a risk, but Seller has gambled before and won. In 1990 he was a booker for tours of everything from the Flying Karamazov Topol of Fiddler on the Roof. He was 25, stuck in middle-management nounces proudly, "that I hated my

see a try-out of a rock monologue by "There's this rock band on stage and out comes this tall, lanky guy with turous new young audience into the Brothers and David Copperfield to curly hair named Jonathan Larson who launches into the story of him showing up at his surprise birthday party and facing the fact that he's 30, broke, his bathtub's in the kitchen,

The British production is ac- friends, one of whom invited him to in a diner and nobody wants to pro- professional relationship that culsomeone no-one had ever heard of. tinue or take the job he's been offered in an ad agency?"

Seller was bowled over. "It was the first time I'd experienced a musical that was talking directly to me and I had a very strong, visceral response to the music." He wrote to Larson outlining his own shaky pro-

The show itself progressed through years of try-outs and rewrites. Seller took three friends along to an early reading in 1993. "It was inchoate, musically very powerful, but it was just a seed of what was to come and he hadn't yet developed plot or character." Two of

Larson to drop it and move to the next work. Over a year later, after hooking up with director Michael Greif, Larson pulled Seller back to a workshop version. "I took my business partner and to cover myself I said 'this is either going to be brilliant or a piece of shit' but by Mimi's entrance with "Light My Candle" we were hooked." He struck a deal to help finance a production at New York Theatre Workshop in return for the future commercial rights.

His instincts were sound. The reviews for the 1996 NYTW production were ecstatic and tickets simply vanished but this off-off-Broadway venue with its large, deep stage only seats 150. With a cast of fifteen and five musicians it made no financial sense. Broadway proper, however, remained an intimidating

"But I got a feeling, 'if this show can't play Broadway then I gotta do ing in a diner. It was like he almost something else with my career'. I grew up wanting to work there and I thought, "if this isn"t Broadway then a lot of press," Broadway ain't me any more'. er, quietly. Lawyers, friends and everyone told me I know you got great reviews, but do you know how many times the word 'death' is mentioned in those reviews? The downtown audience are still going because they want to won't go uptown and the uptown audience won't go to a 'death' show. Go his friends are moving into more fan- ducer credentials and two weeks lat- his friends left at the interval and the off-Broadway, you'll run forever'." cy apartments and he's still working er they forged the beginning of a third advised him to persuade Undeterred, he played a hunch and

Engaging: Adam Pascal as Roger and Krysten Cummings as Mirni in 'Rent' (left) and the cast of the show (below) Photographs: Nobby Clark

re-opened the show in Broadway's derelict Nederlander Theatre, virtually unused since 1980. Two years later and counting, Seller can lumiriate in the knowledge that he was

Part of his conviction stemmed from the unusually convincing chemistry between Larson's dramatic material and his use of rock music. "Most kids who grow up wanting to write Broadway shows don't know the rock vernacular. Then you have middle-aged rock'n'roll people who see an audience for the music, but they don't bave the experience of writing character or plot-driven song. Jonathan grew up in the 70s and loved Billy Joel and Elton John ... he knew how to get the pump of an electric guitar into music that tells a story."

The analysis is right. Rock musi-cal hits are virtually non-existent. Hair had a great score and novelty value (its youthful, iconoclastic view and the nudity) but was really a revue and Jesus Christ Superstar is far more successful musically than dramatically. Even Paul Simon had a mega-flop with The Capeman. The staging of Tommy collapsed over here although it had much longer run in the USA. Even there it barely made a profit. According to Seller, investors made two cents on every dollar for the New York run. The smart guys who paid for Rent have more than quadrupled their investment. (Now you know why people keep producing expensive musicals).

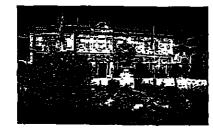
There was one other reason for the storm of publicity surrounding the workshop production. Hours after the dress rehearsal, Jonathan Larson suddenly died of an aortic aneurysm. He never saw his success. "You didn't have to know him to mourn him. He was a bohemian artist with a bathtub in his kitchen who until six weeks before he died was workbecame a character in his own play. It was a strange, awful fate that got

"Did it help catapult Rent into the stratosphere? Yes. Did it have anything to do with its long-term success? No. Three years later people see the show.

'Rent' is at the Shaftesbury Theatre (0171-379 5399) £10 tickets are available two hours before curtain-up.

INDEPENDENT

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Revival finds a league of its own

Shooting Star Chester Gateway Theatre

IMAGINE: a star footballer, say David Beckham, combs his centre-parting to ask a favour of his fiancee's employer. Can Vicky have next Wednesday and Thursday off so we can get married? Two days! But the employer happens also to be the chairman of a rival club, currently in a comic state of disarray, and he spies a chance to save his team.

How does a transfer, a parttime job in the firm's packing department, on top of your £12 a week, and a little house so you won't have to live with Vicky's folks, sound to you? Yes please Mr Sugar, says the

forelock, Mr Ferguson doesn't like me dribbling at United. The Professional Footballers

manded to sponsor Chester Gateway's ingenious idea to ball comedy Shooting Star since it serves to show exactly how they can now afford to do so. In that era of the leather ball, the 2pm kick-off and the maximum wage, the footballer is Red chester Rovers (Tony Forsyth), and the chairman Joseph Lawson (Kenneth Gilbert) who to pot in his quest for trophies

earnest Becksy, searching for his glimpse of green here for the miere of Shooting Star, as he did, real action is in office and among many others, Rattigan's boardroom, beautifully recre- The Deep Blue Sea. He can ated in period by Norman clearly still cover every blade of Coates with its wooden filing grass. But the future can be

Association should have derevive Basil Thomas' 1948 foot-Rutter, "the Dribbler", of Todhas let his printing business go for Burnville United.

and yards of full worsted. Moreover, it is staged by someone who was there: Frith Banbury

It is fascinating to see a work with no pretension at all to be a serious

"issues" play dealing so effectively with ground-level economics

cabinets, ponderous panelling glimpsed working itself up. The parallel plot in which Lawson's firm is sliding towards failure is a microcosm of Appropriately there is not a directed the West End pre- an industry reluctant to mod- er of her "young man" really is.

ernise and trading on the uncritical patronage of its traditional clients. This action is perceptively and quite movingly associated with the hesitant middle-aged romance of Lawson's secretary (Angela Scoular) and the major client's rep, excellently played Philip Bond. It is fascinating to see a work with no pretension at all to be a serious "issues" play dealing so effectively with ground-level economics. And the future economics of football are also in sight.

Apparently a buttervouldn't-melt office mouse Ned's fiancee Mavis sees exactly the injustice of the chattel system and what the earning pow-

Chloe Newsome may look like porcelain but she shows Mavis has certainly some shot on her. Perhaps, back in 1948, Jimmy Hill was in the gods taking notes. Unfortunately the play recoils from modernity with the revanchism of Corinthian values in the person of the old amateur and new chairman Jack Bannerman (Antony Gabriel).

The game's the thing once more, and gone is the old deference. When Mavis tries to open negotiations with him she is quickly silenced. But not for long, not for long.

Shooting Star runs until 23 May: tickets 01244 340392

Jeffrey Wainwright

Wilde's wit falls victim to a singing spectre

The Canterville Ghost, Northcott Theatre,

OSCAR WILDE'S whimsical short story has survived a film. with Charles Laughton mugging for dear life, but even when filled out with the telling of Wilde's children stories, The Happy Price, there is hardly enough substance for a musical. This is not the Wilde of the scathing wit. Just light humour with a touch of senti-It may have been the pres-

set, but I had the impression that we were in for a 1920's style musical comedy. The Canterville Ghost proves to be a bit more substantial than that: although the songs seem to spring out of nowhere in the musical comedy tradition. can family invade a stately

chestra pit, or the baronial hall

A story of how an Amerihome dates from the time when Americans wore check suits and big cigars, made vast fortunes from the invention of gadgets, and were loud and brash and supremely insensience of musicians in the or- tive to British traditions and

Lucretia Otis, with their brat- only be released from his purgatory by a young girl's tears. Step forward Virginia, the tish boy twins and deep feeling young daughter, help to release The Canterville Ghost from youngest Oils, imbued with a

Ron Moody's predicament engages the audience and his presence carries the show beyond its expectations

culture. Hiram Otis and ancient rhyme the ghost can

400 years of frightening mol-strong streak of sentimentally ecules. The Otis tribe exorcise for helpless aberrations. There the ghost by simply not be- are some good songs. "A Ray lieving in him. According to an of Light", sung by ghost Ron Corinna Powlasand, the twins

Ð

ular tear-stained ballet, and Charles Miller's music has a lyrical lilt which lasts throughout. Peter Quilter's script sticks slavishly to the original. Only his song lyrics add anything new. The Cunterville Ghost has some period charm but is essentially light-weight. There are times when Ron Moody's predicament engages the audience. His considerable stage presence carries the show beyond its expectations. The Otis family, Steven Wickham,

tle through optimism of a pop-

Moody, has the endearing bat- Gavin Eaton and Jamie Golding, and Sheli Andrew as the catalyst juvenile go through their routines efficiently. Nicola Sloane, the doomy housekeeper, has a few numbers in the Ivor Novello mould.

The production, by Brian De Savo, is full of thumps and flashes and a couple of stage illusions — the big finish when the Ghost ascends a staircase into the clouds sent the audience away happy.

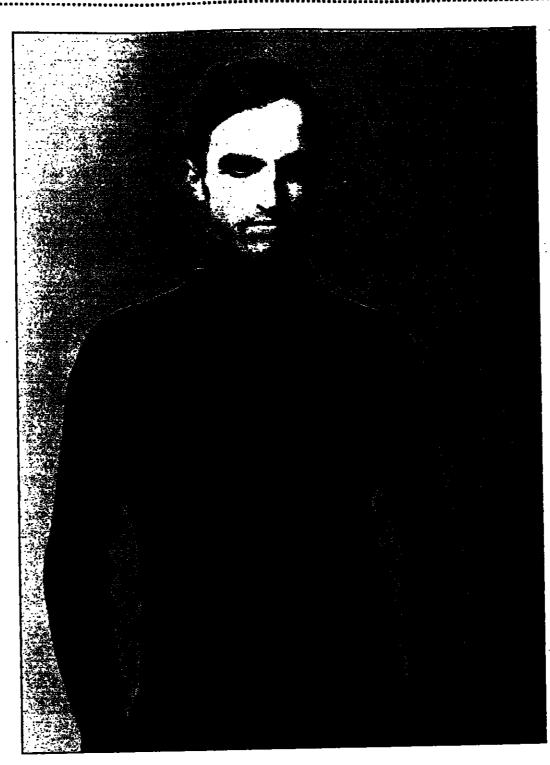
The Canterville Ghost runs until the 23rd May.

Allen Saddler

17/FASHION

The man who turned Madonna into a Goth

Right: Nicolas Ghesquiere, head designer at



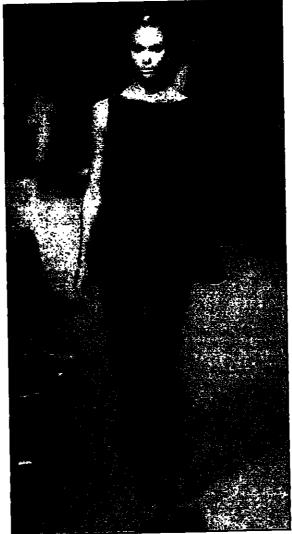
When Madonna gives a designer her seal of approval, his success is assured. Nicolas Ghesquiere, the new man at Balenciaga, cannot fail: the pop star is already quite a fan. Ian Phillips meets the great couturier's latest successor at his Paris studio



Crèpe dress with kimono sleeves by Balanciaga, £915 from Joseph, 71/179 Fulham Road, London, SW3. Enquiries: 0171 823 9500.



Madonna gave Ghesquiere his first public outing, when she wore one of his monastic designs to the Golden Globe Awards earlier in the year



Asymmetric cape top, £575, and matching trousers, £279, from Joseph as before Photographs: Ben Elwes

WHEN the fashion house Balenciaga was looking for a new designer early last year, there were reports that it was planning to bring in a big-shot designer. The names of Helmut Lang and Yohji Yamamoto were bandied about. The fashion flock started to get all flustered. Then, it known 26-year-old called Nicolas chesquiere would actually be taking over. To which the general reaction was "Er, who?"

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Allen Suddler

Jeffrey Wainwright

At the same time, Ghesquiere was also hired to design the women's collection for Sussardi, and just 12 months later both appointments look like an incredibly smart move. His latest collection for Balenciaga was the highlight of Paris Fashion Week, and shortly after his first collection in October, Madonna adopted him as one of her new fashion darlings.

At the Golden Globes in January, she chose not to wear any of her favoured designers, such as Doke & Gabbana or Versace. Instead, she turned up in a long-sleeved, full-skirted black Palenciaga dress, which she de-safibed as "Goth". On a trip to new album, she took time out to pop into Balenciaga for a fitting

Paris office stands a board coving in Spain in 1919 and closed it in

and walked away with a choice of 10 outfits for the Academy Awards. On the night, she chose to wear an outfit by the latest avant-garde designer on the block, Olivier Theyskens, but that's another story.

When asked about his most famous client, Ghesquiere is was announced that an uner the less, reveal that she discovered his creations during a shoot for Spin magazine with Dutch photographer Inez van Lamsweerde (a big fan of Ghesquiere). "She immediately fell for my clothes," he says. "She feels they fit into the new direction she wants to take and have obvious links to religion something which has always

fascinated her." Indeed, Ghesquiere admits er. As a child, his parents worto being very attracted by the monastic aesthetic, as indeed was the old master Cristobal Balenciaga himself. In the collection for autumn/winter '98, it was apparent in the pared-down, sombre, black forms and clothes inspired by capes and cassocks. Right up until the last minute, Ghesquiere had even planned to tie thick ropes around the models' waists in the guise of belts.

by Jean-Paul Gaultier. For him, Balenciaga, who set up his first couture business

evening, I say to myself, "Life's

are quite infectious, and par-

ticularly evident when he re-

counts how he has always

wanted to be a fashion design-

ried about him because he

would spend all of his holiday

sketching clothes - even on the

beach. In secondary school, he

used to give the local butcher's

daughter fashion lessons and at

the age of 15, spent his summer

working for Agnés b. At 18, he

was hired as a design assistant

His passion and enthusiasm

not fair," he jokes.

ered in pictures of nuns. Next. Paris in 1968, is one of the top three couturiers in fashion hisdoor, the American departtory. Balenciaga died in 1972, but ment store Barneys is placing an the house is now set to flourish again under Ghesquiere; since taking over the design helm, the young designer has managed to revive the great Spaniard's style. There is the same purity in the

Ghesquiere himself is sitting at a marble desk, dressed in a long-sleeved black T-shirt with his long hair scrunched up at the back of his head with the aid of lines, the same bubble shapes an elastic band. Out of the window, he has a view of the House and the same analysis of volumes, and the same relentless of Dior and says that he often modernity. admires John Galliano's Mercedes as he drives by. "When I walk out of the door with my pylon bag on my back in the

"Balenciaga took his inspiration from Velasquez," he says, "I take mine from Princess of Parisian couture in San Se-wish.

construction of each piece is carefully thought out and highly original. Skirts, for example, consist of four separate panels. Tunic-style tops have sleeves at the front, but look like capes from the back.

"I really don't have too much trouble designing," he says, "because Balenciaga's heritage is so inspirational." He certainly seems well informed about the late couturier's life - how he started off reproducing models a worthy heir to carry out his

Leia's dress in Star Wars." The bastian; how he was "not at all sociable, but rather solitary, discreet and stern"; and bow, when he announced that he was quitting fashion, Christian Dior himself came to beg him to con-

"Before he quit, Balenciaga did say one thing," he continues. That he regretted not being younger so that he could do a ready-to-wear collection for a younger, more active woman." In Ghesquiere, at least, he has

HOT THING



Odeur 53 by Comme des Garcons

'odeur' being sold as a perfume. Or is it just an odeur? It is called Odeur 53, (imagine saying that, from Comme des Garshould someone ask what is that scent?"), it by Kawakubo) is clunky comes from 'noses' at and gorgeous, it is highly the laboratory of In- conceptual, and involves ternational Flavour and Fragrance, and was nal result, which is sure to commissioned by Rei Kawakubo of Commes des Garcons, who is this fragrance is the first launching it to an unsus- step away from ozonic

it as '53 abstract notions evoking images, creating your own air around you,' more akin to a breath of 200ml eau de toilette, £39, ing drying in the wind, ea. 2445 burnt rubber and the Melanie Rickey

IT IS most bizarre. A freshness of oxygen, using perfume that is not a perfume, and yet is an nothing from nature, and thus is truly environmentally friendly. Because it is comes

cons, the bottle (designed 'a process' to gain the fiplease Comme fans. More than that, however, pecting public on 11 May. scents like the unisex cK As a concept, it rede- One, and the next step tofines the whole idea of wards the millennium. modern perfume, and the And what's more, the smell is unique too, which smell, which is also unisex, is rare. The IFF describes is quite addictive. A sure

and 'a memory of a exclusively from Liberty, smell', and after spritzing Regent Street, London WI it around it does seems from 11 May for two weeks. fresh air than an actual 15ml eau de toilette, £13. smell. This is because it From 25 May it will be has been made by chem- available from leading deically recreating 53 inor- partment stores nationwide. ganic smells, such as sand For mail order inquiries, call dunes, fire energy, wash- Liberty on 0171 734 1234

OUT OF THE BATHROOM CABINET

Gwyneth Paltrow

SHE is dressed by Donna Karan for her role in Great Expectations and by Calvin Klein in Stiding Doors. She has become fashion's most wanted woman. Even her nails have a designer label slapped on them. They are painted courtesy of radical Californian cosmetics company, Urban Decay. The range includes Meltdown (metallic blue) and Snow (pearly yellow). The price is £11.50, but when you're Gwyneth Paltrow, the entire range comes with the territory. For stockist information and mail order, ring 0171-Susanna Cohen







Now listen to me: 'Our mother was a classic single parent with five children, long before we knew there was such a thing as a single parent' Photograph: Peter Macdiannid

The other Mr Straw

Ed, brother of the more famous lack, has grown up the hard way. Jack O'Sullivan meets the Home Secretary's brother

HE looks alarmingly like his older brother. Those severe, mer Prime Minister? angular features, the same steely, greying hair, that firm, of Thomas Gradgrind. And, life was not always so easy.

Ed Straw, the Home Secretary's younger brother, is setting out his prescription for better relationships and better parenting. National TV should, he argues in a detailed and influential report, have to devote two hours a week to the subject. A huge campaign should be waged, equivalent to the drink-drive campaign in its capacity to change attitudes. Proper support and advice for couples and families could save the Treasury £4bn a year - the cost, he says, of broken families.

But what is he like, this prophet of marital bliss. whose family connection has prompted such attention to his message? Will Ed turn out to be an repeat of the naff Terry Major-Ball, whose filial

The form is not good. Only likewise, there is some of the supplying cannabis, Uncle with when I got older." Dickensian teacher's grim- Ed's history was dragged up. ties, claimed a fellow student.

In fact, Ed Straw is probably as respected in his field as brother Jack is in the political world. A partner at Coopers & Lybrand, the management consultants, he has run unsuccessfully for the chairmanship and specialises in media businesses. His expertise in relationships springs ostensibly from being chairman of the trustees of Relate. with which he has been involved for 12 years. But his authority comes from being trained in a hard school - the Straw family.

When Ed Straw was eight left home. They saw him again a couple of months later. Ed

shadow haunted our own for- he explains. "At some level I There were five children, beiled 'Does not exist'. I look last year, as Jack Straw frog-back now and realise that was squared off finger making marched his 17-year-old son, totally the wrong thing to do, points with the determination William, down to the police but it was a way of coping with station over allegations of a situation, which I persisted

Why, I asked, had his father ness lingering around a lean Ed had been "an enthusiastic not seen him for so long? Ed, figure, which seems to say that user" of dope back in the Six- now 49, chooses his words kindly. He seems a warmer, less wary figure than his brother. Perhaps it's not wearing glasses. Or not belonging to the Labour Party. Or maybe the dope softened him up a bit all those years ago. "I think," he says, "people underestimate the emotional roller-coaster that the non-custodial parent goes through when seeing their, children fleetingly.

"As a consequence, a lot of fathers find the easiest option is to separate completely."

His parents had never enjoyed a good relationship. "It started during the War. Like a lot of people, they went into it and Jack was 11, their father with great hope, but it got more difficult from then on. The only way to describe it is as 'high in was 43 when they next met. conflict'. It was not physically "Thirty-five years is a long violent - but words can be just time not to see your father," as hurtful as physical violence.

put my father into a box la- which just added to the burden of the relationship." His father remarried a

woman who already had children. He worked in insurance and eventually became a technical librarian at Stansted airport before retirement. Some money found its way back to rails. On the vicious circle of the Straw children, but their mother, a nursery teacher, raised them alone in a council house in Essex. Jack, Ed and their younger brother, Willie, all won scholarships to an Essex boarding school.

"Our mother," he says, "was a classic single parent with five children living in a council house long before we knew there was such a thing as single parents. It was completely novel. But we just got on with our lives." Did Jack, I wonder. play a fatherhood role as the eldest of the three boys? "No, that wasn't the dynamic we had. I tended to pair off more with Willie, and younger sister, Helen, while Jack paired off

with our eldest sister, Sue." Are they close now? "To be honest we get on with our lives. We were once described as 'good brothers'. We like each

other. We both have families and our families see each other from time to time."

You cannot, however, avoid reading a little filial tension into some of Ed Straw's outspoken statements on the failures of the state to rehabilitate voungsters who go off the then state punishment, he declares: "You could not do more for ensuring the continuance of domestic violence if Government defend it."

And he regrets unwillingness to tackle family problems more imaginatively. "The Government is scared witless. Given the background, they are hardly going to say, 'How about a back to basics campaign'. It is a poisoned chalice, and so arms-length organisations are

needed to do this work." Ed Straw now sees his father regularly. "I spoke to him last night," he says. Ironically, just a year after meeting up with him again, Ed Straw's own marriage broke up, after he and his wife had had three children, now aged 22, 20 and 17.

But this time, the outcome

has been different. The children stayed with their mother, but their father has a home 200 yards away. "Far from losing touch, I feel that we are now very close."

So what made his own marriage flounder? Ed Straw is as magnanimous to his ex-wife and he is to his father. "I think I was a far better natural parent than was a natural partner

Perhaps all this history hard-

ly recommends Ed Straw as someone with the answers for you tried. Yet members of the .a country which has the highest divorce rate in Europe. But you have to give him credit for his openness. He even admits that, when his own marriage got into trouble, he did not call on the services of counsellors, nor indeed of Relate, with which he had already been involved professionally for several years. Like most people who need such help, those who need it most find it hardest to ask. Even when they are as knowledgeable

> Relative Values: Support for Relationships and Parenting by Ed Straw is available for £4.95 plus 60 p&p from Demos. 0171

as Ed Straw.

Are chocoholics safe from the pods of doom?

World supplies of chocolate are under threat from a deadly blight. Ann Treneman is griefstricken :

UNTIL yesterday, black pod disease was the least of my worries. In fact, I didn't even know it existed. And then came the breakfast phone call. "Have you seen the news about chocolate? It's under threat!" said someone who may once have been classified as a friend. "Black pod disease is threatening to wipe out the cacao bean and that means chocolate could be as expensive as files mignon! Will you be able to afford it?"

I poured myself another bowl of Choco-Flakes and reminded myself to screen my calls more carefully. Then I started to worry. Black pod disease sounded pretty bad: in fact, give or take a word or two, it could be the black death. Other questions hovered. Could it be related to Black Rod? And how did Ebola figure in all of this? And still the voice in my ear did not stop: "And there is also something called Witches' Broom which is killing all the trees in Brazil!"

I put the phone down and took stock. How had the supply of Terry's Chocolate Oranges been allowed to drop below five and why hadn't I purchased Cadbury's Mini-Eggs when they were a multi-buy bargain? The truth was that I was only a couple of dozen of Penguins away from a chocolate crisis.

But surely there must be some mistake. Perhaps it was just a case of those bastards who love to taunt us with the latest health news/scares/terrors having a bit of fun. If black pod disease was really about to make Mini-Eggs extinct, wouldn't I have known about this? But then I saw the news for myself, strain of the lethal black pod discase is threatening more than a millions tons of cocoa, leading food experts to predict a world shortage of chocolate."

Life was so unfair! Now what were those of us who rely on chocolate for our supplies of the stimulant theobromine and the love-drug phenylethylamine to do? Obviously such things would soon have to be obtained illegally in dark car parks and pub loos. A life of crime awaited. Our only hope was that New Labour would allow chocolate to be prescribed on the NHS. I could see the patches now.

But I seemed to be getting ahead of myself. First, surely, more information on black pod was required. It turns out that this thing is a cousin of potato blight, and once the fungus at any time.

gets into a pod it all goes rotten. (Pods, just in case you haven't read Encylopaedia Britannica lately, are produced by the slow-growing trees after six years, are the size of small footballs and contain 40 cocoa beans each.) According to Tony Lass, an expert at Cadbury, a new strain of black pod has evolved in Africa and had quickly spread to the border of the Ivory Coast. "It's now sitting on the frontier," said Mr Lass, "where a million tons of cocoa a year is under threat."

I had no faith in Ivory Coast frontier control and immediately tried to ring Mr Lass at Cadbury's. He was "out" for the afternoon but there was a Mr Tony Frost who was speaking on behalf of black pod. "There is a new strain. What is it called? Black pod actually. A new strain of an old friend," he said with what could have been re- . garded as a dangerous nonchalance. "This news really came out of a conference held in Panama on what could be done to counter the pests and diseases besetting the cocoa plant. But you've got to keep in mind that we already lose 20 to 30 per cent of production to



get that into context."

So what does that mean? Reprieve for Mini-Eggs? "This is certainly not a plague and the price is not going to shoot up to that of fillet steak," he said. I started to feel better and, as Mr Frost let rip with lots of info better if the cocoa growers know each tree individually, even began to relax. He began to tell me about pod borers (no relation to black pod, thankfully) and gave a very entertaining account of how Witches' Broom affects the flowers and causes tendril-like growths on the trees instead. "In fact, in Brazil we lost half of the product in one year and I don't suppose you even noticed," he said.

Sweet relief! And Alan Porter at the Chocolate Society was equally upbeat. "No, there: are no worries. It's just hype." There really is no major crisis." 🖰 But, I can't belp but worry and perhaps it wouldn't hurt to stock up on Mini-Eggs just this once. After all, another lethal strain of black pod could strike

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The man who's selling Diana to the people

SHORT, balding and bespec-tacled, he looks a bit like Nick Hornby. Dave Brett could have turned out to be a real-life version of Rob Fleming, the music-obsessive around whom Homby based his best-selling novel High Fidelity.

Like Fleming, he rejected the option of a regular career in favour of setting up a backstreet record shop. But while the neurotic Fleming allowed his life and his shop to drift, Brett has turned his business into a £30m-a-year operation.

Not only does he now own six record stores, he is fast becoming Britain's Mr Box Office. He now presides over the largest ticket agency in British ownership. With sales reaching over a million tickets a year, he can now give the two giants, American-owned Ticketmaster and Canadian First Call, a run for their money.

Yet until now few people have been aware of Dave Brett. They think they are buying tickets from radio stations and NME and Mclody Maker when in fact they are buying via his Nottingham-based Way Ahead group, which has kept the name of the tiny record store Brett opened 17 years ago.

Then earlier this year, Brett won one of the most coveted deals ever: Way Ahead was chosen as the agent with the sole rights for selling all the tickcts to the Diana museum at Althorp Park, the final resting place of the Princess of Wales. Way Ahead is used to cop-

ing with demand: when Oasis played at Knebworth in 1996, it shifted a quarter of a million tickets inside a day and took 60,000 fans to the show in a fleet of 1,200 coaches. But nothing could have prepared the company for the onslaught on their telephone system on January 5, the day that tickets went on sale for Althorp. Although the ticket lines did not open until 9am, the company received 10,000 enquiries hetween midnight

and 6am. Rob Wilmshurst, Way Ahead's 28-year-old general manager, says that when the lines did open, many callers were emotional and, believing they were calling Althorp, asked to leave messages of condolence for the Speacer family. Within four days, 140,000 of the 152,000 tickets had been sold.

Many callers were so keen to visit the museum that they



owner Dave Brett Photograph: John Lawrence

called as soon as they could, without knowing exactly where Althorp was. But they were keen to know what they might see. In fact, each ticket allows them entry to the museum in a converted 18th-century stable house, filled with memorabilia including family photographs, cine film and other mementoes with a selection of tributes and condolence books that were sent to the Spencer family.

Earl Spencer was severely criticised for charging £9.50 per ticket, and Way Ahead is at pains to stress that this is not a

profit-making venture for the company. But the deal buys it prestige it would take years to otherwise obtain. "[Althorp] are not doing

this for any commercial reason. They are not going to advertise this," Mr Wilmshurst says. As a consequence, nearly eight thousand tickets remain unsold, with Althorp due to open its gates for two months on July 1. He is convinced that the ex-

olanation for the unsold tickets is that the public firmly believes all of them were sold in the stampede of the first week of January. "Without a doubt people would be surprised to find out that tickets are still available," he says,

This moves into a completely different area from the rock and pop arena."

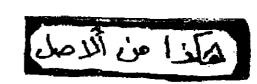
Indeed. Dave Brett has come a long way since the days when he sold Judas Priest LPs for a profit margin of one and a half pence a copy.

The ticket operation began as an across the counter service, a way of helping some of his record shop's customers get to concerts out of town by Jaying on coach trips. It was the revolution in independent radio. the opening of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, and Brett's willingness to embrace new technology, that made Way Ahead the biggest box office operator outside

It is technology that has transformed people's ticketbuying habits. The days of fans queueing for hours to buy tickcus outside a venue as soon dates were announced are long gone. When tickets recently went on sale for the Spice Girls live shows in London and Sheffield only five people bothered to queue outside Way Ahead for tickets. By contrast, 1,000 booked via the Internet.

Now 44. Brett recalls watching "just about every band on the live circuit". His lifestyle today, though, is "not very rock'n'roll": he lives alone in a Nottinghamshire village and drives a Range Rover. The man who used to rub shoulders with Bono now concentrates on showing his prize-winning bull mastiff, Molly, at Cruft's. "T've got 16 orders for puppies from all over the world," he says, with as much pride as if he was announcing a ticketing deal with the rock superstars of the age.

lan Burrell



Denis Goacher

DENIS GOACHER believed Theatre, translating for John himself to be a "strolling player", a "troubadour". Primarily a stage actor, then radio actor, later he existed on his looks and wits; as poet. How he scored the line between media, and when this line broke, is hard to ascertain. Script-writing and acting for

the BBC's Third Programme. produced by D.G. Brideson, awrence Gillam and Douglas Cleverdon, led to broadcasts charting Rimbaud and Verlaine's London affair, a oneman show on Byron, readings from e.e. cummings, Raleigh and Shakespeare, and programmes on Ezra Pound, and Basil Bunting,

Five tail limney nor shippon has bed for

That synod of poets'll filch sweet note the first falters they like you sing

He was born in London, an thly child in working-class Pim-nco, in 1925. His father, a selfemployed travelling textile When they moved to Birmingham the wartime bombing closed his grammar school. Instead of becoming an evacuee he became a boy actor, first at with Peter Whigham's, anoththe Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, then in London at St James's and the Albany. The chance of the West End never came again. Goacher did repertory at Salisbury and Hayes, and worked for Ensa. Perhaps this

the origin of his wanderlust.

Vines, whom he met at St James's, an actress who in the 1930s was considered Peggy Ashcroft's equal. He worked with A.E. Matthews, and was wrote him a part. In repertory he founded friendships with Basil Sydney, Margaret Verney, Michael Gough and Kenneth Williams. Connecting with Williams years later, when Carry On had become so popular, he asked why Williams lost touch. "Oh Denis," said Williams. 'I thought you would

be ashamed of me. This month the BBC screens a documentary on Williams, to which Goacher contributes. Gregarious, generous, yet mercurial and intolerant, he remained

land to his first profession. Post-war theatre sustained him until he found it corrupt- of the field spider, the speeded by kitchen-sink drama. He excelled on stage and radio, at lungs like bellows, in monocle, Bernard Miles's Mermaid silk dressing gown, or suede

Barton at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and in Pound's adaptation of Sophocles' Women of Trachis. Vines's career tailed off, subsumed by children from her first marriage.

Drawn by a new relationship with a sculptor, Simone Paurd, Goacher divided his time between freelancing in London and in Paris where he learned Provençal, medieval and 19thcentury French. He would soon have use of it.

Arthur C. Rank tried to persuade him to become a "matinée idol". He went not to Hollywood, but Washington in 1953, becoming Ezra Pound's secretary, visiting him at St Elizabeth's Hospital, typing his pronouncements, his poetry. His careful documentation of Pound's predicament at the time, and the campaign for his release, remains crucial. He became lifelong friends with Basil Bunting - sent to meet him by Pound. Bunting had fallen silent after The Spoils, grieving the death of his first son, Rustam. Goacher was quick merchant, paid for private to broadcast Bunting's work lessons for him with an actor. on the BBC. This remains insufficiently recognised.

Clear Lake Comes From Enjoyment (1959) interspersed Denis Goacher's early poetry er rival for Poundian anointation. They both regularly visited Dorothy and Ezra Pound at Brunnenburg Castle in Turin. He became drama critic for Oswald Mosley's the European. In 1962 Louis MacNeice commissioned his translations from At 19 he married Margaret Dante's Inferno for the BBC.

In 1968 Goacher had a daughter, Koré, with Hermione Russell, moving near Peppercombe, where Turner had painted, in north Devon. Moving proud that Freddie Lonsdale inland, to Wembworthy, with another child, Pabrice, alongside two sons from Russell's first marriage, he continued to work. He performed in Colin Davis's production of Stravinsky's Oedipus Rex and a one-man show of Byron at the Royal Court. At Dioné House, a dilapi-

> dated rectory, chickens roosted on lavatory seats, the pumpwater frequently froze, and a blind colonel Sir Michael Anlocated his true poetic voice late, at 43. Logbook, published in 1972, was resonant for its diction, inversion, attention paid in short lines to minuscule detail well. Tall, curly-haired, with



Goacher as Alain in the R.L. Stevenson story St Ives, 1960

jacket and white plimsolls, he tramped miles planning his poems. He punctuated pub hours by reveries on nearby benches. Even in blizzards he would negotiate drifts higher than hedges to the pub. Most publicans retained a "reading corner" for him. He wrote in many churches; they were empty enough.

Grosseteste Press ran for five

years at Dioné House, publishing his Transversions, renditions of the Arch Poet, Corbière, Michaux. Basil Bunting and John Riley came to stay. Six miles away, Sean Rafferty shied at visiting. Insisting Rafferty was concealing poetry, he coerced this shy Scottish publican into print at Grosseteste.

Joining Bunting at the ICA memorial to Ezra Pound, he however, he had outstayed his welcome, and quit for Poros. Sky-blue dragon-files poise and

spring, with Greek marguerites brighter than guineas rich more sunny than Montezumu's

an egg-yolk without its glare

Although he soon returned, fathering two more children, Orlando and Columbine, support for Pound's troubadours had faded. His next two books, published only in America, To Romany (1976) and If Hell, Hellas (1980), alienated British support. Denied an invitation to Bunting's 80th birthday read-

ings, which hurt, he severed all working ties with England, except Durham University's Bunting Archive. He never worked again in the theatre. Today it seems only the obituary honours the life-work of contributors to the English poetry renaissance

Health and morale broke down, and his writing faltered. In 1984 he settled in Deyà to be near Robert Graves and his spiralso continued broadcasting for its momentarily revived. He Douglas Cleverdon. He ghost- began Now, demarking his love, the everyday of Deyà, horse would climb the stairs in sell, Soldier On (1973) and Rid- Poros. The unpublished Now hopes of company. Goacher ing High (1974). Domestically, stands as his supreme achievement, one of the finest long poems of the 1980s. It is an idiosyncratic, strangely timeless and innocent lyric, deftly simple, pushing detail he once prescribed on English wildflowers on to larger vistas, ge-

tion of English literature, a classical, actable literature. Slenderest virgin asphodel,

Photograph: BBC

Cap's, Oh to be in Soller now that April's train and tram nearly identical St George's Day, Catalonians gave

at Stratford upon Avon would they Gravitas, courtesy, constant among elders, mpt manners the darker the face,

inward time slow, outer sometimes willingness, goodwill, which god's will Shall dignity ever ride horse-proud

Forced back to England, he holed up in a Pimlico room. Lonely, in chronic health, the line had become a circle. His spiritual home became Gordons Wine Bar, off Charing Cross. There, souterrain, nocturnal, ed two autobiographies for the route for the cargo of location, he wrote satires, seated below a painting of Churchill, an intimidation of his demons. He wrote what the barman said: his glossary prefigured by "B"s, booze, books, board.

Nicholas Johnson

Denis John Goacher, poet, translator, actor and broadcaster; born Landon 9 June 1925; married (two sons, ographical and personal. It two daughters; marriage dissolved); retains a dialogue with his no- died London 23 April 1998.

Professor Ralph Raphael

WHEN Ralph Raphael was a Lecturer at Glasgow University his colleagues recall his phenomenal powers of concentration; he would read demanding papers in a noisy room, totally unaware of those around him. One wet day, he was found walking along a long departmental corridors still holding his umbrella over his head. His colleagnes knew then he soon would be Professor Raphael.

His Glasgow lectureship in Organic Chemistry, from 1949 to 1954, proved to be one of the most productive periods of his life, and included such notable achievements as the synthesis of carbohydrates and histamine from acetylenic precursors. But he also had a great sense of fun, and occasionally delivered spoof lectures. One began with serious chemistry and gradually became less credible; it culminated in the description of molecules with their absorption spectra in the audible region.

Yet Raphael's excellence triumphed over his lack of reverence, and he was elected as the first Professor of Organic Chemistry at Queen's University, Belfast, in 1954. His stay in Belfast was to prove relatively short, and in 1957 he returned to Glasgow, this time as Regios Professor of Chemistry, and remained there for 15 years. The story is told that his promotion had been so rapid that he was observed to knock at his new office door and wait for his

predecessor to ask him in. However, Raphael fitted the image of dreamy professor only when it suited him. More commonly, he was master of the economical and appropriate phrase. In Glasgow, a manufacturer of expensive instruments had been leading the department a dance over a period of months in relation to the malfunction of a relatively new machine. Patience having passed breaking point, Raphael's letter to the managing director opened: "Like the Borgias, Name-

less Ltd have experienced everything and learnt nothing." Ralph Raphael was born on New Year's Day in 1921, and attended school at Wesley College, Dublin, and Tottenham, London. By 1941, he had graduated in Chemistry from Imperial College with first class honours, and run off with the Hofmann Prize.

The winter of 1940-41 was a tough time to be living in London - air-raids were frequent. and thousands were killed. In the midst of the carnage. Raphael had to prepare for his finals. He was one of five who obtained a First (He was narrowly beaten to the top position by Geoffrey Wilkinson, who Raphael: 'The Godfather'

Prize for Chemistry.) There away. In 1973, he moved to then followed postgraduate research, also at Imperial, and he was awarded his PhD in 1943.

His first paper reported work towards the synthesis of acetylenic alcohols related to vitamin A, and seeded a lifelong interest in acetylene chemistry. From 1943 to 1946, he worked at May and Baker, heading the chemotherapentic research unit, and working on the chemistry and synthesis of penicillin. An ICI Fellowship (1946-49)

induced him to return to Imperial. This was a period of great happiness and chemical activity, the latter recognised by his receipt of the Meldola Medal of the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1948. Basil Weedon (later Vice-Chancellor at Nottingham University) recounted that, following Raphael's marriage to Prudence Galfikin, he could often be found in the departmental library, surrounded by journals, at the same time minding their baby in a pram. He added that "this does not sound very significant now, but it made quite an impact on the male-dominated community of that time".

During Raphael's second period in Glasgow, the science blossomed as before. In 1961, he published a new synthesis of queen bee substance, a compound secreted by the queen to inhibit both ovary development in the worker bees and further queen rearing within the colony. In recognition of this and much other outstanding synthetic work, he was the Tilden Lecturer of the Chemical Society in 1960, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1962. His wider services to the chemical community in this period were expressed through membership of the Chemistry Committee of the Science Research Council, and in his role as Vice-President (1963-66) and Council Member

of the Chemical Society. It was perhaps inevitable that his talents would lead other institutions to entice him



was later to receive the Nobel Photograph: Godfrey Argent

Cambridge as Professor of Organic Chemistry and Head of the Department of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry. Here he carried out more elegant synthetic work. His undergraduate lectures were not only clear, but laced with humour and examples of the relevance of synthesis to society. The humour which he demonstrated in the lecture theatre carried over into his daily life, and particularly to the dinner table - either when he was an after-dinner speaker, or at home following his wife's superb cuisine. He was an excellent raconteur, and used a measured delivery in his deeply resonant voice to good effect. In a busy life, bridge and appreciation of music were some of his pastimes.

A considerable portion of Raphael's time was inevitably spent on administration. Not only did he cope with this almost single-handedly, but he sat on sufficient professional appointment committees to become affectionately known as The Godfather".

Following his arrival in Cambridge, his talents were tapped as a member of the Council of the Royal Society and President of the Organic Chemistry Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry. Additionally, he was a Pedier Lecturer of the Chemical Society in 1973, received their Ciba-Geigy Award for Synthetic Chemistry in 1975. and was Davy Medallist of the Royal Society in 1981.

A new experience was to be a Fellow of a Cambridge College. At Christ's College he found himself, although a professor in the university, the college's most junior Fellow. As such, he was "Mr Nib", with the duty of pouring after-dinner drinks for other Fellows and their guests. The entry in Christ's Wine-Book for 26 June 1972 reads: "Professor Raphael presented a bottle of Sauternes to celebrate the first occasion he had occupied Mr Nib's chair, and to express his appreciation of the friendly forbearance of the Room."

Dudley Williams

Ralph Alexander Raphael, chemist born Craydon, Surrey 1 January 1921; Lecturer in Organic Chemistry, Glasgow University 1949-54; Professor of Organic Chemistry, Queen's Univer sity, Belfast, 1954-57; Regius Professor of Chemistry, Glasgow University 1957-72: FRS 1962: Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge 1972-88: Professor of Organic Chemistry and Head of Department of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, Cambridge University 1972-88 (Professor Emeritus); CBE 1982; married 1944 Prudence Gaffikin (one son, one daughter); died Combridge 27 April 1998.

nief court



Maddox: voice with 'the smoke of the hill country'

Rose Maddox

Colorful Hillbilly Band", the Maddox Brothers and Rose more than lived up to that description.

Attired in ornately embroidered rhinestone costumes, their act was as much visual as musical. Their repertoire encompassed ballads, blues and povelty numbers, and their music's drive and rhythm anticipated rockabilly. It was punctuated by wild yelps, spoken asides and maniacal laughter.

If the Maddox boys (Cliff,

gave the music its energy, it was their little sister Rose, the possessor of a voice once described as having "the smoke and substance of the hill country in it", who grabbed the attention.

Born to sharecropping parents in the Appalachian foothills of northern Alabama, Rose was the youngest of seven children. In 1933, following the failure of their cotton crop, the family headed west to California. They worked initially as fruitpickers. Their move into

forming at a rodeo. Rice's Furniture Store in Modesto agreed to sponsor the band's radio appearances on the condition that they were fronted by a female vocalist and so, at the age of 11. Rose made her professional début. Featuring Cal on guitar and harmonica and Fred on bass, the band, known as the Alabama Outlaws, eventually expanded to include brothers Cliff, Don and

BILLED as "America's Most Fred, Don, Cal and Henry) music came after Fred saw a lo-tively, guitar, fiddle and man-became one of the area's biggest "The Reno Blues"), "Honky Train (1960), and Rose Maddox cal group get paid \$100 for perdolin. Later still, they were draws. The Second World War joined by the steel guitarist Bud Duncan and, following and Maddox, her attempts to Cliff's death in 1949, by a succession of lead guitarists.

Managed by their domineering mother Lula, the outfit performed in dance halls and honky tonks up and down the San Joaquin Valley, entertaining the ever-increasing numbers of dispossessed Southerners. Victory in a 1939 Sacramento talent competition gave them "Friendly" Henry on, respec- greater radio exposure and they

caused temporary dissolution join the legendary Rob Wills baving come to nothing, worked briefly with the bandleaders

Arky Stark and Dave Stogner. From 1946, the reformed group began recording for Four Star Records. Rose's increased confidence and the optimism of the immediate post-war years saw a change in approach and bore fruit in classics like "Philadelphia Lawyer" (a.k.a. finest albums, The Glorybound died Ashland, Oregon 15 April 1998.

Tonkin", and "Sally Let Your Bangs Hang Down" (1948).

By the mid-Fifties both Rose and the Brothers were signed to Columbia. She had cut her first solo sides in 1953 and, following the band's final session in 1957. concentrated on a solo career.

She was signed in 1959 to Capitol, where her series of chart entries included "Kissing My Pillow" (1961), and "Sing a Little Song of Heartache" (1962). She also cut her two

Sings Bluegrass (1962).

Following her departure from Capitol she continued to perform both alone and with her brothers Henry and Cal. A 1970 album for Starday, Rosie, was followed by minor outings. She spent her final years on Don's Oregon ranch.

Roselea Arbana Maddox, singer: born Boaz, Alobarna 15 August 1925; twice married (one son deceased):

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CRAIGNYLE: Thomas Donaid Mackav Shaw, Lord Craignyle, On 30 April
10 Repeacefully at home. Belowed husbeeld of Anthea, much-loved father
of Alison, Kale, Thomas, Madeleine,
Justin and Juseph and grandfather of
nine. Requiem Mass at the Brompton Oratory at 11 am on Monday 11
May, Family flowers only. Donations
to St Thomas Fund for the Homeless.
35 Cromwell Road, Hove, East
Stisters BN3 3ES.
San der WOERD: On 2 May 1998.

Sisser BN3 3ES.

van der WOERD: On 2 May 1998.

Peacefully at Clare Hall, Ston Easton, Sonnerset, Dirk Jan Albert van der Woerd BDS, Enddarts, Surgeon Commander Royal Dutch Navy, Officer in de Orde Vin Oranje-Nassau, aged 93 years, Greatly loved by Dick, Ninekr, Neil, Anthony, Robert, Kathleen and his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral at Ston Easton Parish Church on Friday 8 May at 10am followed by cremation at Hapcombe Crematorium. Bath. Flowers (or doubtions in fied for the uplease of Ston Easton Church) e/o Elege of Ston Easton Church (or Enery and Sun, Funeral Directors, Emery and Sun, Funeral Directors, Emery and Son, Funeral Directors, Ashwick, Oakhill, at Bath, Somerset BA3 5BG, telephone/fax 01749 940350, "God Niz Met Ons".

wents for BIRTHS, MAR. Automorments for Bin I have the Sent In Reides & DEATHS should be sent In Printing to the Gazarte Editor, The Inviting to the Gazarte Canary dependent, I Canada Square, Canary dependent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 077-293 2012 or faced to 077-293 2010. I Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Birthdays Sir John Arnold, former High Court Judge, 83; General Sir Jeremy Black-er, former Master-General of the

Ordnance, 59; Mr Tony Blair MP, Prime Minister, 45; Mr Thomas Prime Minister, 43, 181
Brake MP, 36; Miss Susan Brown, actress, 52; Professor Rosemary Cramp,
archaeologist, 69; Miss Joanna Dunham, actress, 62; Sir Frank Ereaut,
former Bailiff of Jersey, 79; Mr. Robert Fell, former chief executive, Stock Exchange, 77; Miss Alessan-dra Ferri, ballerina, 35; Mr John Henderson, former Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire, 78; Mr John Hutton MP, 43; Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Martell, 43; Vice-Amina and all, jazz trum-peter, 77; Mr Alan Ross, author and publisher; 76; The Right Rev John Tay-lor, former Bishop of St Albans, 69.

Anniversaries Births: Lorenzo Lippi (Perlone Zipoli), poet and painter, 1606;

Maximilien-François Marie-Isidore de Robespierre, French revolutionary, 1758; Sigmand Frend, neurologist and psychoanalyst, 1856; Rudolph Valentino (Rodolfo Alfonzo Raffaele Pierre Philibert Guglielmi di Valentina d'Antongnolla), actor, 1895; Stewart Granger, (James Labianche Stewart), actor, 1913;

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh, Honorary Life Member of the Royal Association of British Duky, Familier of the Royal Association of British Duky, Familier, and Edinburgh States of Merit for Research and Development in the Field of Dairy Familing, at Buckinghous Palmer, as Grand Master and Furn Principal Rough, asternik a Lunch for the Order of the British Engage at The Parmers' Club, Whitehall Court,

George Orson Welles, actor, director and writer, 1915. Deaths: Hentor and writer, 1913. Deaths: Feet-ry David Thorean, poet and essayist, 1862; Lyman Frank Baum, author of The Wizard of Oz., 1919; Maria Montessori, physician and educa-tionist, 1952; Wilfrid Hyde White, ac-tor, 1991; Mariene Dietrich (Maria Magdalene Dietrich), actress, 1992. On this day: the first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was issued, 1840; Epping Forest was dedicated by Queen Victoria for the perpetual use of the people, 1882; Josef Stalin be came leader of the government of the Soviet Union, 1941; Roger Bannister was first to run a mile in under four minutes, 1954; Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones in Westminster Abbey, 1960; Spain closed the Gibraltar/Spanish border to all but Spaniards, 1968. To-day is the Feast Day of St Edbert, St Evodius of Antioch, St John Before the Latin Gate and St Petronax.

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Masters of Light (1): Joseph Wright of Derby, An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump , I pm.

Tate Gallery: Jonathan Blackwood, "A Surrealist Dialogue: Britain and Europe in the Thirties", Ipm.

London SW1; and, as Patron, attends a reception for the Air League at St. James's Phince. Changing of the Guard The Heusehold Creatry Manuscot Resistant visions the Queen's Lafe Guerd at Horse Guerets, 11am Princess Patrices's, Canadem Light (minery mount

LAW REPORT: 6 MAY 1998

Judgment in default of defence would be set aside

Anson (T/A Party Planners) v Trump; Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Lord Justice Robert Walker) 7 April 1998

THE COURT of Appeal allowed the appeal of the defendant against an order dismissing her summons to set aside a default judgment which

had been entered against her. The plaintiff was in the business of organising parties for the rich and famous. The defendant, a prominent international businesswoman and socialite, had approached the plaintiff, who had agreed to organise a party which involved hiring an exclusive hotel and restaurant over a weekend. The

defendant had paid a deposit of

£10,000. The plaintiff had sub-

sequently rendered her bill for

the balance of £26,497.32 mak-

ing a total of about £36,500

The defendant asserted that the agreement had been that the party would cost a little under £25,000 or, alternatively, that the total bill was excessive. Michael Roberts (McNulty & Co. Hanis) for the defendant; Andrew Burns (Radcliffe Crossman Block) for

Lord Justice Otton said that the appeal was concerned primarily with procedural matters. In May 1996 the plaintiff had been allowed to amend her statement of claim by substituting a new statement of claim. At the same time it had been ordered that the defence should be struck out, and that a new defence should be served within 21 days of service of the amended statement of claim.

The amended statement of claim had been duly served in June 1996, but no defence had vice of a defence had expired, work, there must be implied been served within the 21-day a judgment thereafter signed by into it a reasonable time be-

dant's solicitors that they intended to enter judgment for the original sum claimed on 22 November, pursuant to Order 19 rule 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. They had done so shortly after the opening of the court offices. On the same morning, shortly before the judgment had been signed, the defendant's solicitors had faxed a defence to the plaintiff's solicitors.

The first issue on the appeal was whether a default judgment could be entered under Order 19 rule 2 where a defence had been served outside the 21-day time limit but prior to the entry of judgment.

The judge had correctly interpreted the rule to mean that once a time limit for ser-

licitors had warned the defen- judgment, and that a defence served after expiry but before judgment, although not a nuility, had been irregularly served. That reading of the rule would cause no hardship to defendants, since it would be open to them to apply for leave to serve late or to apply to have judgment set aside if a plaintiff had known full well that there was a defence, albeit an irregular one.

> The second issue concerned the way in which pleadings faxed to the other side were to be treated. Order 65 rule 5 provided for service of documents by fax in accordance with paragraph (2B), ie where it was effected by transmission to the business address of a solicitor. The judge had taken the view that in order to make the rule

time limit. The plaintiff's so- the plaintiff was a regular tween the actual arrival of the fax in the fax machine, and a communication to someone in the office who knew about the matter in question. There was, however, no

scope within the rules to import a gloss of reasonableness or reasonable lapse of time. "Transmission" meant the transmission process from the moment that the document was despatched to a time when the complete document had been received in to the recipient's fax equipment.

The third issue concerned the merits of the defence. The court had decided that it should consider afresh the exercise of the discretion to set aside the judgment, and had concluded that the defendant should be given the opportunity to defend the claim as to

the outstanding balance. Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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When 'defeat' is a victory for peace

THERE HAS BEEN a clear pattern in recent years: only those who do not wish to change too much are in a position eventually to deliver revo-

The Oslo accords that seemed to pave the way for peace in the Middle East were agreed by Yitzhak Rabin, an Israeli prime minister who had never been known for dovishness. His assassination removed, in the short term at least, the possibility of change: Shimon Peres, more obviously committed to a peaceful solution, could not carry the country with him in the way that Mr Rabin had briefly seemed able to do. In Northern Ireland, the traditional intransigence of Gerry Adams and of David Trimble has seemed in previous years to be a problem. More obviously, however, it has recently come to seem a bonus, in the sense that neither of them can easily be portrayed as a sell-out.

Both in Oslo and in the case of earlier Middle East talks - most notably the Camp David agreement, brokered by the United States between Israel and Egypt - the deal came only after it seemed certain that it would founder. As in Belfast in the days before the Good Friday agreement, this was more than just brinkmanship. Both sides cared passionately about what they thought they might lose. Both sides knew that it would be almost impossible to change the terms, after the deal had been struck.

Theoretically, one could make the same case with the Israeli-Palestinian indirect talks in London this week - where Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, shuttled between two London hotels. Tony Blair said that there was neither breakthrough nor breakdown. Mrs Albright announced that the United States is ready to invite the participants for further meetings in Washington next week, if further progress is made. For the moment, however, the chances of an outbreak of sanity look woefully slim. None of the participants has staked their political life on the outcome.

The Ulster deadline set by the US mediator George Mitchell was, on the face of it, quite artificial. In theory, it did not matter a jot whether a peace deal was agreed before the Easter weekend or a few days or weeks or later. In practice, however, the setting of an unmissable deadline was crucial. All parties at Stormont, whatever their differences on politics, shared the view that this was their last chance. If they did not manage to hammer something out through the long night (and then another night, and then another), then everything else would be lost, for the foreseeable future.

In London this week, by contrast, there has been a strong sense of merely walking through the part. The Israeli leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, who has repeatedly made clear his contempt for the spirit of the Oslo accords, may eventually come to accept the inevitability of change. For the moment, however, he still seems locked into the positions held by both sides in Northern Ireland just a few years ago, where any backdown was seen as a defeat, not as a potential victory for both sides.

Mr Netanyahu talked yesterday of the need to "close all the gaps" and of "resolving outstanding issues". But he also emphasised "a very simple point: we cannot compromise on Israel's security". This includes a blunt refusal to give up 13 per cent of the West Bank, as proposed by the Americans, as part of the redeployment agreed in the Oslo accords.

Even the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat - who had more reason than most to be pessimistic - appeared almost upbeat. He noted "some progress", and said that "time is needed in order to achieve an agreement". Following his 50-minute meeting with Mr Blair at Downing Street, Mr Arafat rejected the suggestion that the talks had failed.

Despite attempts to put a brave face on the progress of the talks there seems, however, little chance of real change while Mr Netanyahu is so obviously wedded to the win-or-lose scenario - for his own domestic electoral reasons. Hawkishness is good for votes. And yet, as Cyril Ramaphosa, senior negotiator in South Africa's transition from apartheid, emphasised on a visit to Northern Ireland last week, agreements only become possible when both sides recognise that they must lose something, in order to win. It is a message Mr Arafat has long since learnt - even while the radical pressures on him continue. If Mr Netanyahu fails to learn that basic lesson, then Israelis and Palestinians alike will have little reason to remember him fondly. What seems like a retreat can easily come to seem an advance. Standing firm, meanwhile, can come to seem the greatest defeat of all.

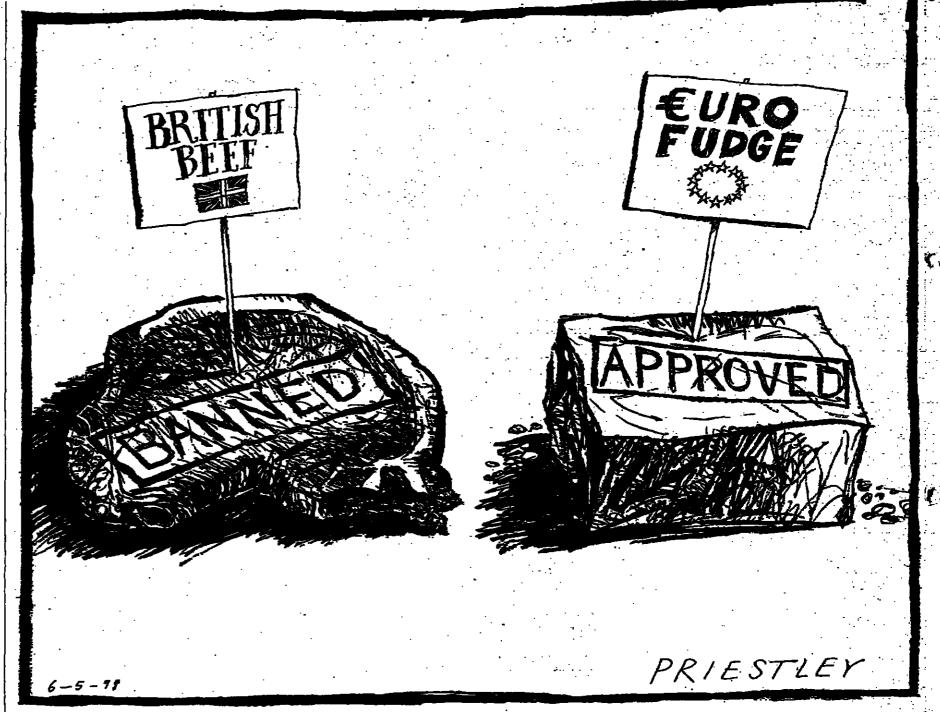
C4: back to new ways

ACCORDING TO the Independent Television Commission, some of Channel 4's recent output has been lacking the vital quality of innovation. This is a serious charge.

When Channel 4 was launched in 1982, it was told to innovate and experiment and to devote a "suitable proportion" of programming to tastes and interests not catered for by ITV. It took its remit seriously. Channel 4 has changed British television for the better. Brookside challenges taboos routinely. Film On Four has boosted the British film industry with works such as Shallow Grave and Trainspotting. The Big Breakfast was experimental. if nothing else. We were given the surreal comedy of Father Ted. All this is good, indeed excellent, television. So what is Channel 4 doing wrong?

The ITC believes Channel 4 may have strayed from its remit recently in its factual broadcasting. In particular, there has been insufficient attention paid to "adult education", which is dominated by gardening, cookery and pets. Channel 4 News, excellent though it is, has not witnessed very much innovation recently. Channel 4 needs to address these weaknesses and there are encouraging signs that its new boss, Michael Jackson, knows this.

Mr Jackson, when he was with the BBC, suggested that the Channel 4's courtship of a young audience had gone too far and threatened to overshadow its achievements in documentaries, drama, and the arts. He asked: "Am I alone in thinking that the pursuit of demographics - in particular young, lager-drinking, upwardly mobile men - has led to a sapping of Channel 4's originality? Has consumerism eroded the spirit of curiosity?" The ITC report suggests that he was not on his own. Thanks to the phasingout of the levy paid to the ITV companies, Mr Jackson is now able to make the most of the station's success in pulling in advertising. The mild rebuke of the ITC gives him all the excuse he needs to follow his instincts.



Rights and religions

Sir: We welcome the Government's determination to incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights into British law through the Human Rights Bill, now moving into its committee stage in the House of Commons. The Human Rights Act Bishop of Edinburgh will be a keystone in creating a more just and equitable society.

We believe that faith communities and their associated organisations should respond warmly to legislation which makes it easier for United Kingdom citizens to protect their basic human rights. While we recognise some of the anxietics expressed by other Christians regarding the Bill's implications, sound legal opinion and the experience of churches in Europe indicate that Article 9, dealing with religious freedom, provides clear and proper protection. Such Professor of Theology, Winchester fears are therefore misplaced. We deplore attempts by some Christians to weaken the Bill through exemptiontype amendments. We encourage Her Majesty's Government to reject devices which surround the Bill with exclusions, defences and opt-outs. Such exemptions would be inconsistent with its manifesto commitment to bring rights home".

We affirm the values represented by the Human Rights Bill. As such they challenge our religious institutions in the way they conduct themselves as human communities. Those who oppose the full incorporation of the European Convention, by challenging the inclusion of churches and other religious bodies within the definition of "public authority", are in danger of creating legislation which is less rather than more satisfactory to the churches. Narrow and misguided institutional self-interest should give way to an embrace of those rights and values which will enhance the common good. BEN BRADSHAW MP

(Exeter, Lab) CHRIS BRYANT Christian Socialist Movement NADIR DINSHAW JOHN GIBSON Catholics for a Changing Church +JOHN GUILDFORD (The Right Rev John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford) The Most Rev RICHARD

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

HELENA KENNEDY (Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws) RICHARD KIRKER Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement Canon MARTYN PERCY, DAVID McCLEAN The Lincoln Theological Institute MARTIN PENDERGAST Christians for Human Rights The Right Rev PETER SELBY Bishop of Worcester VALERIE STROUD We Are Church (UK) **ELIZABETH STUART** +ROWAN MONMOUTH (The Right Rev Rowan Williams, Bishop of Monmouth) London E9

Eurobank row

Sir: The behaviour of the French government in forcing the splitting of the presidency of the European Central Bank raises grave questions about the true motives of the French participation in the European construction. France's pursuit of hollow grandeur at the expense of reason and noblesse d'esprit could have hardly come at a worse time.

However, now is not the time to express naive shock and jeer from the sidelines at Euro-politics. Nor can we of the European Central Bank. allow a 15-nation project to become a statist and interventionist model designed by the French for them to use as an extension of their own national power.

It is only by playing a full part within the EU that the UK can wrestle with French influence and, together with other countries, try to alarm us all. prevent such acts of egocentrism. OLIVER CARDIGAN London W14

head of the European Central Bank,

out the EU, and everyone else doesn't. ty nominees in an order selected by Everyone else gets their way. Maybe I'm missing something here, but couldn't everyone else simply have told the French where they get off? RICHARD BARTLE Colchester, Essex

Sir: Giles Radice claims (Comment, 4 May), that "it could be to our lasting national disadvantage to put off the decision to join the euro too long". In fact it would be to our lasting national advantage to make the decision now not to join.

History shows that the artificial union of disparate nation states always ends in bloodshed. And I fear for the future of our grandchildren. The loss of sovereignty by absorption in to a "country called Europe", the inevitable eventual consequence of our membership of EMU, would spell the end of our considerable influence in the world - an influence which has been a force for good over many centuries. It would also spell the end of our prosperity, hard-won as an independent nation.

Harmonisation, the buzz-word of the EU, is all about agreement and compatibility, and yet France and Germany, the two countries which intend to rule Europe, cannot agree on the simple issue of the chairmanship GERRY HANSON

Iver Heath, Buckinghamshire

Sir: The European Parliamentary Elections Bill, now to be considered in committee by the Lords, contains a profound change in our constitutional arrangements which ought to

For the first time in British history, the only choice we (excluding the Northern Irish) shall have at the forthcoming Euro-election will be to Sir. The French want their man to be support one party or another. Once we have made that choice, seats will and everyone else doesn't. The French be awarded to the parties within elecget their way. The British want their toral regions in proportion to votes beef and chocolate to be sold through- gained, and they will be filled by par- House of Commons

the parties. So 84 out of the 87 United Kingdom MEPs will depend for their position on the service they render to the party, and not on the service they render their constituents. Is this what we really want? SIMON GAZELEY

Real nappies

ter (2 May) sitting in my sunny garden, where a line of snow-white nappies flap in the breeze, and would like to encourage her to resist peer pressure and try "real" nappies.

I started to use them four and a half years ago, when my second child was born, and my youngest is, I trust, about to bid them farewell. My original sets of nappies are still going (and white), and I reckon I have saved mountains of landfill, considerable sums of money and a great deal of muscle power, not hugging disposables home from the shops.

The secret is to build the soaking and washing into the schedule. Invest in a bucket with a lid, a pair of designated rubber gloves and a sense of humour for the occasional leak. Then when Vanya Body's adolescent accuses her of contributing to toxic landfill, she can say (smugly) "But I didn't." CHARLOTTE OBOLENSKY Bristol

Box of tricks

Sir: Pandora (The Box, 28 April), suggests that I resorted to indecipherable techno-speech in a debate in the Commons. The question you quote, whilst certainly technical, was in fact a written question, and had to be in that form to get a relevant answer. I wouldn't dream of speaking in such jargon - not a single MP would understand me. MATTHEW TAYLOR MP (Truro and St Austell, Lib Dem)

Men, sex and football Sir: Annabel Ferriman is yet anoth-

er in a long line of women writers who agonise over why men commit adultery or speculate why some famous person is caught with a prostitute "Why's he a dirty Harry?", 2 May). She quotes a (woman) psychologist who has "discovered the reasons".

It really is very simple. Sperms and eggs. Men have lots of the former and our unsocialised imperative is to spread them about. With the dominant and most desirable males, the imperative is even stronger and whatever men may tell women as we gaze deeply into your eyes, even those with a below-average sex drive would be doing it all the time, if we were Sir: I have just read Vanya Body's let- sure we could get away with it.

There is one area in which men and women do indeed confuse eachother. Women find it difficult to be lieve that men genuinely do not really think they are doing anything wrong. What we do not understand is why men always get the blame and never all the women who are voluntarily doing it with us. TIMOTHY St ATHER London SW13

· - - ·

Sir. With reference to your leading article "Send her off and let me watch the football!" (5 May), I appear to be one of the few men in England determined to avoid seeing any of the World Cup; a lecture on the history of plywood would be more interesting. Instead, I intend to spend June and July shopping in London's West End, enjoying candle-lit dinners, sipping champagne in exclusive nightclubs, staying in five-star hotels - and having sex. Please feel free to pass on my address and telephone number to any disgruntled wives or girlfriends of football fans who would like to join me. JAMES MCANDREW London WI

Gill's Stations

Sir: There is already a memorial in Westminster Cathedral and place of prayer for all victims of any kind of abuse (Letters, 5 May). It is called the Twelfth Station of the Cross. LAWRENCE SCOON Workington, Cumbria

What your name means — if it sounds funny and made up



KINGTON

TODAY I am glad to welcome back Dr Ver- sounds sort of silly and made up, doesn't it? ting fed up being asked to explain names non Monicker, the man who knows more about the origin of names than anyone. He's here today to answer your queries about where your name comes from, or where someone else's name comes from, if your name is too boring to ask questions about.

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Yes, it does,

doesn't it? On the other hand, Yasser Arafat sounds equally silly and sort of made up, doesn't it? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Yes, it does, doesn't it? Look, I don't want to complain. but could we have something a little less topical and controversial, please?

Garibaldi's a funny sort of name, isn't it? It

Netanyahu's a funny sort of name, isn't it? It sounds sort of silly and made up, doesn't

Thomas". So Mandelson means "son of Mandel", Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Er, yes, I sup-

pose so. Yes, definitely. I have just looked up "Mandel" in a German dictionary and in German it means either an "almond" or a "tonsil". So you think that Mandelson means either "Almondson" or "Tonsilson", do you?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Yes, it does,

doesn't it? Actually, could we have some-

Mandelson is a funny sort of name, isn't it?

Looks sort of made up. really, doesn't it?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Not at all. Man-

delson is another name like Mendelssohn,

or Thomson. Mendelssohn means "son of

Mendel" and Thomson means "son of

thing a little MORE topical, please?

Glanville and Portillo and Dallaglio... Don't evade the subject. You don't know the origin of Daphne du Maurier's name, do you? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Of course I do. But before we leave the subject, you might

means "garlic". Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, that Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Look, I'm get-means that the name of the current captain

doesn't it?

I'm not sure about. Hasn't anyone got any

Daphne du Maurier is a a funny son of name,

isn't it? It sounds sort of silly and made up,

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Yes, it does,

doesn't it? Of course, many well-known

names in England have a foreign origin, but

once we get used to them they no longer

sound exotic. One thinks of Bronte and de

be interested to know that in Italian "aglio"

names I can easily explain?

of the English rugby team -. Dallaglio means, in Italian, "from the garlic" or "of the garlic".

Fascinating. So what does Daphne du Maurier's name come from?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: From the word "daphne". This refers to a kind of flowering shrub known - coincidentally - as a daphne. It comes via Latin from the Greek word "daphne", meaning "laurel". So it's interesting to know that Daphne du Maurier and Stan Laurel had the same name! What's interesting about it?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Nothing, Sor-

So, what does du Maurier mean, Dr Vernon Know-all? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, obviously "maurier" is a French word referring to a profession like "patissier" or "épicier"...

Yes, but what profession?

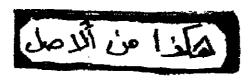
Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, obviously, someone who deals with "maures". Which are...? Dr Vernon Monicker writes: Well, accord-

ing to the dictionary, a "maure" is a "Moor". Not the kind of moors which the people of Bradford and Leeds always claim are five minutes walk from the city centre, but the kind of Moors that invaded Spain, and of whom Othello was an example. So what kind of profession would work exclusively with "Moors", then, eh?

Dr Vernon Monicker writes: I don't know. Oh, why won't someone please please PLEASE ask me a name I can explain, like Hempleman-Adams?

What does the name Hempleman-Adams come from?

I'm sorry - that's all we have time for this week. Dr Vernon Monicker will be back again soon!



Patients no longer – we are all customers now



HAMSIH McRAE

THE FUTURE OF DRUGS

IT HAS been an extraordinary few days in the drug world: first, the launch in America of Viagra, the small blue diamond-shaped pill which treats impotency, and now the possibility of a drug, or rather combination of two drugs, which might cure cancer by switching off the blood supply to tumours.

They represent two ends of the pharmaceutical spectrum. One is a drug with obvious consumer appeal - just the sort of market-driven product that people flock to buy and the big commercial drug companies love to create. The other represents our more traditional idea of the purpose of medicine: the thing you take to cure you of a grave illness. If it works, and there are inevitably considerable doubts, it will rank alongside vaccination or the first antibiotics as one of the giant breakthroughs in medicine.

It therefore illustrates a tension, which will become more evident, between the pressure on the giant pharmaceutical companies to produce drugs that meet consumer demand (for that is how they will make the most money for their shareholders) and the wider demand from humankind to find drugs that treat the mortal diseases.

Of course there is no hard and fast line between the two: any drug that can treat cancer successfully will have enormous commercial demand. But there is a chasm between, on the one hand, mood-changing drugs like Valium (which damps you down) or Prozac (which cheers you up), both of which have been great commercial successes, and on the other, treatments for diseases like malaria, which will be less profitable because they occur largely in poor countries.

Viagra is towards the Prozac end of the scale. There is tremendous demand for it for obvious reasons, but on purely medical grounds the case for its use is less compelling. Though it treats a distressing condition, some people might think of it almost as a recreational drug. As a result the Health Mainrefusing to fund its use. The control of the cost of private sector health care in the US is largely sub-contracted by employers to the HMOs, who therefore carry out a similar gatekeeping function as the NHS does in the UK. Presumably the NHS will take also a similarly sceptical view of its medical value when the product becomes available here.

Is it unfair to suggest that the drug companies are only interested in developing drugs that make profits? Maybe a little, but the hard fact remains that the balance of money spent on research is swinging away from the educational establishments and towards the giant drug companies. The financial markets recognise and indeed demand the focus on profits that the pharmaceutical giants deliver and have rerated their shares accordingly. Pharmaceuticals account for about 12 per cent of the value of the top 100 shares in London, give or take the odd percentage point, agra is a good example. Great name that: a about as high as they have ever been. Mean- combination of virile and Niagara.

while similar pressures are mounting on educational establishments, for as government funds are restricted they have to get sponsorship from commerce to help fund their re-

This shift of the supply of research from educational establishment to commercial company has been mirrored on the demand side by a shift in people's expectations of health care. In the old days drugs were things doctors prescribed to make you better; the consumer took what he or she was told to do. Now, gradually, there has been a shift, with people taking a much greater responsibility for their own health and expecting to have much more say in how they are treated. We are becoming customers rather than patients.

There is one enormously positive side of this: the emphasis on lifestyle as a determinant of health. You see this in all sorts of ways - the decline in smoking, the increasing proportion of people taking regular exercise, the efforts to improve diet and so on. The notion that the fastest way to improve the health of the nation is to encourage a shift in lifestyle is now accepted by the Government, hence the nannyish tone of both this one and its pre-

But there is also a less positive aspect. We will not always be the best judges of what is good for us. As the balance of power shifts from producer to consumer, from doctor to patient, some of us will end up living healthier lifestyles, but some will use the new freedom to take drugs that don't make us better but simply make us feel better - for a while.

That freedom will grow. It will grow because we are moving towards a global market for prescription drugs. At the moment what is available and not available is still controlled by national governments. But these governments have different standards: what is available one country is not available in another. Countries have different authorisation procedures, some believing that ultra-stringent testing is necessary before a drug is made generally available, others believing that ****************************

> We are moving towards a global market for prescription drugs

the balance of advantage is in getting the drug to the consumer as quickly as is reasonably possible. Knowledge about drugs' properties and potential will become universally available through the Internet; drugs are light and easy to transport; and credit cards already pro-

At the moment we have a white market in prescription drugs and a black market in illegal ones. Expect a grey market to grow in drugs that are legal and available in some places but not in others. Expect consumers everywhere to regard themselves as the people who have the right to make these decisions, not the politicians in the country in which they happen to reside.

In the next months we are going to see some interesting tests. People here will want to test drive Viagra before it is commercially available. And people everywhere will be prepared to risk taking the cancer drugs long before they have gone through the normal screening procedures - and these are drugs which up to now have not been tested on humans, only mice.

Above all, marketing is going to become a vital component in drug development. Vi-

Could government take on the task of making happy families?



SUZANNE MOORE

RELATIVE **VALUES**

YOU maybe unaware of the fact but yesterday was National Parenting Day. I was so unaware of it that I carried on as normal. I went to work, my kids went to school, I did five minutes of quality single parenting ("No, you cannot watch Scream 2") and took the cat to the vet to insure that she could no longer go around irresponsibly giving birth to kittens that she does not seem interested in communicating with in any way whatsoever.

No one sent me a card congratulating me on my parenting skills, but I expect this is because National Parenting Day is a new invention. It comes as all new inventions must, from the think -tank still unfortunately known as Demos. They have patented the idea in an effort to get away from the rather sectarian Mother's Day and Father's day and also to publicise their latest pamphlet, Relative Values: Support for relationships and parenting, written by Ed Straw, brother of Jack.

The report could be summarised by one of Straw's basic observations: "Happiness is good economics." Unhappiness costs government money. The fall-out from divorce, dysfunction and family breakdown is costly in terms of benefits, crime rates, drug and alcohol dependency. Two questions inevitably follow. What should happier? And is the role of government to insure personal happiness? Clearly Ed Straw thinks that the answer to the second question is yes, arguing for a national programme of investment in education and support for relationships and parenting.

Strong and committed relationships with parents equipped to parent is the ideal. Fine. Indeed many of the things that Straw is arguing for counselling programmes and agencies to provide help with step-families, redundancy and stress-related illnesses, for instance - already exist in a somewhat shambolic form. The novelty of Straw's idea is that all these various agencies should be drawn together into



an institution much like the NHS called, he suggests, The National Relationship and Parenting Service. Just as fifty years ago the nation's health became a matter of public policy so, he argues, the same vision and drive is needed to deal with our emotional life.

Apart from this dreadful name - I suggest the word relationship be banned from public discourse altogether - this smacks of Big Brother-style intrusion into people's private lives. Most people may want support when things go wrong but they don't want to be told

that the populace can be counselled into compliance. If we are aware of the economic cost of family breakdown then we must surely also be aware of the economic causes. Family life has changed, rather than broken down, as women have entered the work-place; and no amount of "relationship education" will stem the repercussions of this.

Straw is right to suggest that we know already what works. We know for instance that prevention is better than cure when it comes to crime; we know that abuse leads to abuse, that cycles of deprivation can

tal agency. How far politicians should incorporate realistic can incorporate the language of cases of domestic crisis and positive examples of families who work through their problems successfully. Obviously only someone who never watches soaps would make such a proposal. Besides the fact that soaps are popular dramas rather than broadcasts on behalf of The Relationship Party, soaps deal with family breakdown day in and day out. Most of the families in Ramsay Street, Brookside Close and Al-

bert Square have experienced

breakdown, reconciliation,

death, destruction, drug prob-

emotion that supposedly swept the country after Diana's death into public policy pronouncements is debatable. Obviously all governments engage in a certain amount of social engineering and most of us support this, whether it is drink-drive campaigns or sex

education in schools. Yet despite a willingness to be more open about what causes problems, both personally and politically, for society, there is still a vast avoidance of certain crucial issues. We are still "in denial"

about some our difficulties. While the socialisation or lack of it of young men has been recently acknowledged as a fundamental problem - a case feminists have made for years - it has now become apparent even to government that unless masculine identity can be reconstructed and adaptive it becomes destructive. Likewise is no good when fathers refuse to do it or work such long hours that they physically cannot.

So let me just share something with you: buzzwords will not change people's reality. If politicians want to support "parenting", let them leave it to us choose to be counselled or not. Instead, they can just give us parental sick leave, shorter hours, tax breaks and decent nurseries. That's the kind of family therapy we re-

People may want support when things go wrong, but they don't want to be told how to do things in the first place, especially not by government

and need to be stopped. There

how to do things in the first place, especially not by a government body. Demos, who has never shied away from the concept of social engineering. maintains that none of Straw's proposals are to be seen as moral instruction but as simply educational

This seems rather a fudge because parts of this government would clearly like to promote family values, while others are wary of what happened to the Tories' Back to Basics campaign. While Straw uses the phrase "holistic government" as though the role of the state was somehow to unite us body and soul in some brave new world where every day is National Parenting Day, many will balk at the implication

already exists a body of knowledge and skills about how to make relationships more fulfilling. Some of it exists in the professional world of therapy, counselling and social work. The rest of it exists in the informal and feminised world of popular culture, which continually instructs us on how to have better sex, better kitchens, better children.

As we have come to expect from Demos publications, the pamphlet is far better at offering novel but traditional political solutions, such as the setting up of a new government agency, than it is at dealing with the actual culture in which we live. Straw makes the bizarre suggestion that soap operas

demand renationalisation and

huge taxes on the rich. I shall

fume about dumping loyal old socialists. What fun I shall have

upbraiding them for selling the

working man down the River

Thames. How I shall enjoy

asking why they are privatising

the Underground, "Even

Thatcher never did that," I

Looking at the photos of my

three Labour candidates I sus-

pect Madge and Josie, who look

as though they've been lifelong

Labour workers since Attlee's

day, may privately agree with

me. David, however, looks the

very model of Derek Draper

cloning and will probably be

nervous as his answers will, no

doubt, be electronically moni-

tored by Mandelson at Mill-

ing those trite phrases - "I'll be

there on the day", "I'll think

about it", "I'll decide when I get

gammy leg means that at the

very least I'll need a Labour car

to get me to the polls. "Oh and

can I just pop into the betting

The writer was MP for Brieg and

Cleethorpes from 1979 to 1997.

Then I suppose I'll vote

shop on the way?"

Tory as usual.

How I look forward to us-

shall scream.

bank Tower.

scale that Straw could only dream about. No one in Neighbours for instance has sex without hours of discussion before hand. Are they old enough? Are they committed? Have they sorted out the sexually transmitted disease aspect? Do their parents know? The point then, is that

lems and HIV education on a

much of what Straw would like to happen is already happening but it is not co-ordinated or legislated for by any governmen-

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How I intend to bait the local party canvassers

a poll card for the London elec-

tions. A deluge of Labour par-

ty leaflets solicit my vote for

"Madge, Josie and David" in

marginal Churchill Ward in

Westminster to "Get London

other side of the fence. Never

in my life have I been can-

vassed. For every election since

I was old enough to vote I have

been a committed party work-

er, candidate or MP out on the

stump in all weathers canvass-

ing for votes in gruesome coun-

cil blocks where, on occasions,

I was lucky to escape with my

knocked on a door, I waited

nervously for the pitbull to be

restrained before 15 stone of

tattooed brawn confronted me.

saw my blue rosette and let

forth in tipe Angle Saxon how

For 18 years, every time I

Oh bliss it is to be on the



BROWN ON GETTING HIS

OWN BACK

papers and watching occasional television. Being now a normal nobody joining the massed millions of the silent majority I have no opportunity of venting my spicen if I hear or read something that begs a question. In the past I could rant and rave to a government minister either in private, or if he really annoyed me, in the chamber of the House of Commons. If that did not work I could use the full pomposity of being a member of a select

latest telly poll in the Sun.

FOR THE past year I have

been living in the real world. Af-

ter 18 years of gleaning infor-

mation about political and

economic affairs from cosy

chats with prime ministers.

chancellors and assorted sec-

retaries of states at lunches, re-

ceptions, tea room tête-a-têtes

and smoking room huddles I

am reduced to reading news-

I, Thatcher and Major had committee and take on a hapcreated every ill known to man. less foreign secretary or per-At every election, either on manent secretary to ask my daft my own behalf or in support of question or peddle my latest a party worker standing for hobby horse. Then I could issue a press release demanding council, I have had to defend the indefensible, blame world his resignation. Now, I can only do what recessions, and everyone and everyone else does who has no everything else except the influence on anything: shout at Tories and myself in order to sethe TV; grumble at breakfast cure a wretched vote. time when the gas or phone bills

Not this time. spoil the day; argue with friends Having moved to London permanently I am now going to at the dinner table or ring the put to good use all the schem-But hey! Suddenly I receive

use to let politicians know that got one from the Tories." for a few brief weeks, they, the electors, have the upper hand. My first opportunity came

last Wednesday night. My flat buzzer rang. Down the entry phone (how I hated those diabolical inventions when I canvassed) a drenched young city slicker shouts for all the yobbos in the street to hear that he is my Conservative candidate. So excited am I that I invite

him in and offer coffee or gin and tonic. This is the first time

Sadly my innate tribal loyalty gets the better of me as I see the foot-weary bedraggled wretch. No one knows better than I how awful it is for a party foot soldier to be at the mercy of the voter on his home ground.

I confess my past, tell him he has my vote and he trots away happy. I remember how just one pleasant promise of support during a hapless wet three hours on the slog can make up

I cannot wait for either Madge, Josie or David to solicit me for New Labour. I shall hide my photo with Margaret Thatcher on her 70th birthday

in my life I have been can- for 50 abusive variations of vassed. I want to let off one year of pent-up steam as he suddenly becomes the embodiment of everything to do with the rights and wrongs of the Conservative Party. I want to detain him as I have been on hundreds of octake him to canvas an endless forbidding street.

I delight in brandishing the Labour leaflet and say, as was ing lines and lies voters rightly said to me so often, "I haven't drag principal boy Tony" and

"anyone but you".

Madge, Josie or David to solicit me for New Labour. I shall hide my photo with Margaret Thatcher on her 70th birthday, invite them in, waste their time casions, delaying the time it will and pretend to be life-long old Labour. How I shall love to open with, "We only see you at election time." I shall berate them with "this Thatcher in

there" - that I heard so often when the voter wanted to dan-I cannot wait for either gle me on his line. And how, best of all, I shall say that my

French billionaire becomes Christie's biggest shareholder

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

A BILLIONAIRE investor has emerged as the largest shareholder in Christie's International, the auction house which called off discussions about a £500m takeover earlier this year.

Christie's announced yesterday that Francois Pinault, one of France's richest businessmen, had acquired a 29 per cent stake in the business. The shareholding was acquired from Joe Lewis, the Bahamasbased investor who was a key member of the consortium of wealthy individuals which failed with a takeover approach to Christie's in January.

Christie's said it did not know if the share purchase was hostile and it had only been informed of the deal when it had been completed. The company has not yet met Mr Pinault, who controls the £11bn Pinault-Printemps-Redoute retail empire.

The price of the transaction was not disclosed as it was conducted off-market. However, analysts said the price might have

been at a premium to the market price, which closed 4p higher at 296p yesterday. That would put a price tag of £140m on the 29 per cent stake and value Christie's

The off-market transaction raised eyebrows in the City as the purchase of such a large shareholding at an undisclosed price could lead to a false market in the shares.

Sources close to Mr Pinault suggest that he is a long-term investor who would not necessarily have acquired the shareholding as a prelude to a full scale bid. It is thought he might have bought the stake anticipating a continued recovery in the art

Mr Pinault knows the Christie's business well. As one of France's foremost art collectors he is a regular Christie's customer with preferences for modern art. He also

has an impressive collection of sculptures Mr Pinault has struck the Christie's deal using Artemis, a private company he controls. Through Artemis he also owns Chateau Latour, one of the top French wine houses, which he acquired for Fr690m

(£71m) in 1993. His US business interests include a stake in well known brands like Samsonite luggage and 100 per cent ownership of Vail, the Colorado ski resort.

Mr Pinault, 62, started out in business in 1963 with a timber company. He now has a controlling stake in Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, France's largest retailer which has a stock market value of

He said yesterday: "I am delighted to have this opportunity to acquire this a substantial interest in Christie's. I have long

been an admirer of its unique qualities and I believe that there is significant potential for its business and valuable expertise as the trade in works of art continues to grow around the world."

In February Christie's reported a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £40.6 before exceptional items in 1997, with auction sales up 20 per cent. Founded in 1766, it overtook its arch-rival, Sotheby's, as the world's biggest seller of fine art last year, corth ducting auctions with a total value of

Let's get bosses tell **Beckett**

By Michael Harrison

AFTER the euro-fudge of Brussels the bandwagon moved to Birmingham yesterday, where Midlands businessmen gathered at the NEC to find out what the single currency would mean for British industry.

The 200 delegates who turned up to hear Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, launch the first in a series of government seminars did not attach much importance to whether a 63-year-old Dutchman would still be running the European central bank in four or eight years time.

They were much more interested in what the euro would mean for their bottom line, even though the pound may not join until well into the next millennium. Mrs Beckett warned her audience that it was "dangerous and complacent" to believe they needed to take no action yet. But she was preaching to the converted.

Richard Brucciani, chairman of PAL International, a manufacturer of chefs' hats based in Oadby, Leicestershire, employing 155 people, is already aware of the dangers. His company will be reliant upon countries in the euro zone for nearly

"The single currency is a threat that we have to turn into an opportunity," he says. "The moment it arrives we will have to start publishing price lists in euros and that will lead to price reductions, which is good for the consumer but which will put our margins under greater pressure. The plus side is that the euro will also open up markets more."

Tony Bennett, general manager of Linx International, a manufacturer of picture frames based in Mablethorpe on the Lincolnshire coast, is also concerned about pricing in euros. "I would like to think we will produce a euro price list but whether we publish it will depend on how much the pound fluctuates against the euro."

With the strong pound having savaged export profits in the last two years, he sees the euro as an opportunity to create a more stable business climate and backs early entry provided the conditions are right.

Tony Shepherd, chairman of Alderley Holdings, an equipment supplier to the oil industry based in Wickwar, Gloucestershire, says we should enter now. In the short term it will mean his firm no longer has to hedge in both dollars and euros - an exercise that already ties up a quarter of its working capital. In the longer term it will mean lower interest rates and greater transparency, he believes.

The Government may be cautious about membership but the message from Birmingham was "Get on with it". Next stop

Mark climbs as euro row grows

By Diane Coyle Franconics Editor

THE FINANCIAL markets sent the German mark higher on the foreign exchanges yesterday, anticipating an interest rate rise from the Bundesbank in the wake of the weekend's bad-tempered deal on the presidency of the new European Central Bank (ECB).

The verdict in a speech last night of Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president, on the birth of the euro kept dealers on edge all day, however.

Mr Tietmeyer was assumed to be unenthusiastic about the compromise which puts Frenchman Jean-Claude Trichet in the ECB's top job only four years into the term of Wim Duisenberg, its first president.

Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, was at pains yesterday to stress that Mr Duisenberg could stay on for the full eight years of his term of office if he wanted. "A date for his retirement is not included in Duisenberg's official declaration. He himself can decide how long he should stay in the job," Mr Waigel said in a German radio interview.

One Bundesbank council member. Klaus-Dieter Kühher, had already described the compromise as a breach of the Masstricht Treaty. "This is not a good precondition for the start." he said

The markets shrugged off the political fallout, reading the weekend's events as a signal for the Bundesbank to demonstrate its toughness by starting to raise German interest rates. Combined with the widespread expectation that UK rates have reached their peak, this took the pound lower vesterday.

The Danish central bank raised its short-term interest rate in a surprise move yesterday. Although the move was a response to domestic economic

THE European Central Bank,

Frankfurt on 1 July, is a dark

horse. While the details of its

structure and board members

are now known, there is a

much uncertainty about how it

hangs over its relationship with

the politicians, and specifical-

ly the Euro-X council of finance

ministers. This relationship is

likely to shift constantly with

Pessimists see the ungainly

weekend deal for Wim Duisen-

berg, the first president, to

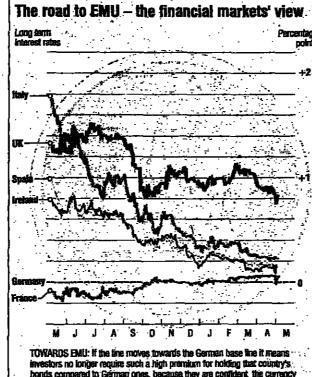
step down half way through an

events and personalities.

One of the question marks

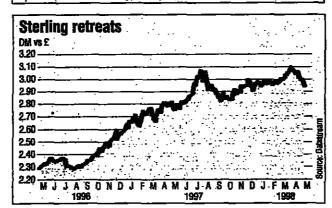
will work in practice.

which starts life formally in



investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in 10 years' time.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.



conditions, it helped the shift of sentiment on the foreign Figures from the Bank of

future political interference.

person executive board and

17-member governing council

consist of eminent and tough-

minded central bankers. Their

personal credibility will boost

that of the fledgling institution,

there will be disagreements

within the council about the

right level of interest rates.

given the different starting

points of member countries.

The ECB-watching industry is

going to be the growth sector

par excellence of the late

1990s," said Alison Cottrell,

chief economist at Paine Web-

A further uncertainty aris-

However, it is clear that

or so it is hoped.

ber in London.

Optimists note that the six-

England yesterday suggested the trend growth in M0, the narrow money measure con-

sisting mainly of cash in circulation, has slowed. Economists saw this as helping the doves on the Monetary Policy Committee hold UK interest rates unchanged at 7.25 per cent at

economic statistics for the euro

area. Policy in the early years

will be aiming at a fuzzy target

against a background of mil-

lennium-related upheaval and

continuing fallout from the

executive board of six, of whom

only one, Italy's Tomasso

Padoa-Schioppa, arrives with a

reputation as a "dove" on in-

Apart from the president,

the dominant personality is

likely to be the ultra-hawkish

Otmar Issing. His reputation as

the Bundesbank's chief econ-

omist since 1990 is sky-high, and

he is also far less charisma-

The ECB is headed by an

Asian crisis

terest rates.

Future lies in bankers' hands

side really matters," he said.

es from the fact that for some impaired than most central years there will be no definitive bankers.

The six are joined by the 11 member central bank governors on the governing council, which will vote on interest rate decisions. Minutes of their meetings will not be published unless the secrecy amongst the grey and nearly all-male group eventually provokes enough popular

The ECB has a broader general council, adding to the 17-strong governing council the central bank governors of the 4 Emu "outs". It will have purely administrative rather than policy responsibilities, but will keep open channels of communication between the ins and the outs.

Sterling fell 3 pfennigs to DM2.94, while its index against a range of currencies fell by 0.8 to 104.5. The pound has returned to its lowest levels for more than two months.

Alison Cottrell, chief economist at Paine Webber, predicted the markets would focus on the likely path of interest rates and the economic slowdown in the UK, weakening the pound. "Every growl from Tietmeyer will mean more relief for UK exporters," she said.

But analysts had different interpretations about the implications of the row over the ECB for the future of the single currency. Some were pessimistic, saying a pattern of political interference had been set and predicting its safehaven status would send the pound higher again.

Julian Jessop of Nikko Europe said: "The market reaction has been quite muted so far, but this is the lull before the storm."

Others said the wrangling over the ECB presidency had been fully expected and financial markets would now focus on its future operations.

Graham Bishop, an expert on economic and monetary union at Salomon Smith Barney, said the new bank's 17member governing council would turn out to be very tough in practice. "There is no chance of that group going off on some mad policy spree just because Duisenberg has only been appointed for four years

rather than eight," he said. He also played down fears that the Euro-X council of finance ministers would try to interfere in the new central bank's policies. Mr Bishop over the tax regime. predicted it would not step in

until it faced its first economic "That is when the UK will realise that being on the out-

North Sea oil spared tax leap

By Terry Macalister

THE OIL industry is becoming increasingly confident that it will escape a heavy increase in its North Sea tax burden. The optimism was underlined yesterday when British Petroleum suggested no new government licences would be handed out until the results of a fiscal review were known.

John Battle, the energy minister, rejected pleas from the UK Offshore Operators Association that the 18th round of licences be shelved because of low oil prices and uncertainty

But BP said it had been giv-

the shape of any fiscal changes would be known before bids for new acreage were concluded.

ploration and development at BP, said it was "the right result to accommodate both lindustry and government] parties." Mr Hayward's remarks,

made at his company's first quarter results briefing, suggest the Government is going to tread carefully on a tax review that is already behind schedule. But UKOOA officials said they were unaware of any commitment by the DTI to com-

plete the tax review before licensing was complete. "I am en assurances by Department of not sure the timing would fit

Trade and Industry officials that anyway." said James May, director general.

The tax review is already late. Gordon Brown, the Chan-Tony Hayward, head of ex- cellor, said in his March budget the Government would give details of its proposed tax changes by the end of April. That would be followed by a

lengthy consultation period. DTI officials said an announcement on the licensing round, which is also behind schedule, would be made shortly, with applicants having until the middle of September to put in bids. The DTI said there was no attempt to co-ordinate the timing with the Inland Revenue's review of taxes.

Investment Column, page 24

Shares for Computacenter staff

worth more than £250m.

However, both men plan to

By Peter Thal Larsen

COMPUTACENTER, the computer services giant, is planning to give most of its 3,000 employees free shares worth up to £1,800 as part of its planned £1bn flotation.

The company, which joins the stock market this month, will offer eligible employees between 25 and 265 free shares. depending on how long they have been with the company. Computacenter yesterday

announced that the shares will be priced at between 550p and 670p each when they start trading on 21 May, depending on demand from investors.

The flotation will make multi-millionaires of Philip Hulme and Peter Ogden, Computacenter's two founders, who will both retain a 25 per cent stake in the company, likely to be

give most of the cash proceeds they will receive from the flotation, around £50m, to charity. Mr Hulme, Computacenter's chairman, plans to lodge the entire £30m he makes from selling 5 million shares in the company in a charitable trust. Mr Ogden, who has stepped back from running the company but plans to stay on as a non-executive director, is planning to do the same with two-thirds of the £28m he will receive. No decision has been made about which charities will benefit, although Mr Og-

donations to universities. A 15.7 per cent stake is currently held by 700 existing and former employees, in shares and options.

den has in the past made

Mike Norris, chief executive, said the flotation would allow

TOURIST RATES

<u> Australia (\$)</u>

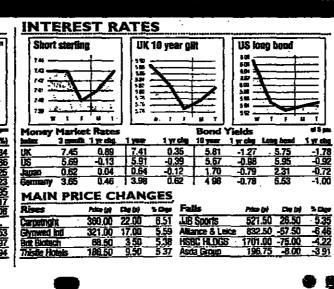
all Computacenter's employees share in the company's future. Only 25.9 per cent of the shares - close to the minimum allowed - is being placed with institu- C. tional investors.

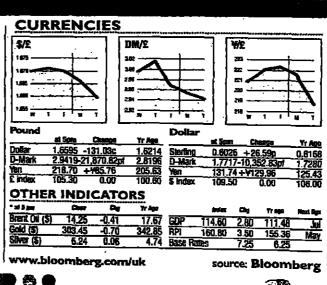
Apax and Foreign & Colonial, the venture capital groups which are long-standing shareholders in Computacenter, will retain stakes of 9.8 per cent and 4.9 per cent respectively.

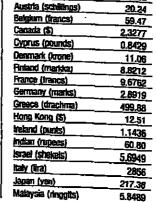
They also supply the two independent non-executive directors to the company's board.

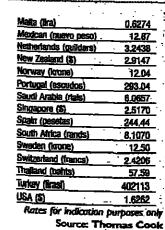
Computacenter, founded in the early 1980s, has enjoyed rapid growth. The company, which specialises in offering a full range of services, has benefited from the trend for large companies to hand over sponsibility for their information technology systems to outside organisations. Investment Column, page 24

eight-year term as an omen of Yesterday in the markets STOCK MARKETS FTSE 100 Dow Jones









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OUTLOOK ON HOUSTON'S SECOND STAB AT THE UK MARKET. THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE EURO OVER STERLING, AND PROBLEMS WITH DISCIPLINE AMONG ACCOUNTANTS

PowerGen deal generates many questions

Industries went a huntin' for a British electricity company, they famously came loaded for bear. Unfortunately, somewhere deep in the woods, they encountered Sir Desmond Pitcher armed with a rocket launcher and that was the end of their ambitions to take over Norweb.

This time around the boot is on the other foot and it is Houston which is being courted by the British electricity generator Power-Gen. However, rather than the blunt instrument of a knock-out bid, Ed Wallis is trying out the softly, softly approach and has sidled up to his opposite number at Houston, Jim Rogers, with the idea of a nopremium, all shares merger.

Now there is no doubting the PowerGen chairman's desire to do some kind of a deal. Having been barred from taking over Midlands Electricity, he ran the slide rule over Cinergy, the US utility which eventually acquired Midlands. Nor is there much question that PowerGen needs to do something, faced with the prospect of a declining share of the domestic generating market, shrinking profits and little evidence that this Government is better disposed to vertical integration than the last one.

But is Houston Industries the answer? There is no overlap between the two so there are no cost-savings to be had. And Power-Gen scarcely needs to go to the expense and trouble of merging with a US electricity retailer to learn how it might attack the UK domestic market once it is liberalised.

Even if the problems of clashing egos, US regulatory approval and how to maintain a quote in blue chip indices on both sides of

THE LAST time the boys from Houston the Atlantic could be overcome, such a merger still poses more questions than answers. PowerGen has to ask itself what the point is of merging with a US business which is also beginning to feel the effects of deregulation, increased competition and pressure on margins. Together they could end up like two drunks propping one another up at the bar.

If on the other hand, the deal does genuinely fill a hole for PowerGen, then Houston shareholders have to ask what is in it for them, since US utilities are more highly rated than their UK counterparts.

PowerGen has rather been pushed into searching for a big overseas deal by the closing of doors back home and its slowness. compared to National Power, in building up an overseas generating portfolio of its own. But it is a high-risk strategy which shareholders should not encourage by giving Mr Wallis the ammunition.

Euro rift won't prop up the pound

THERE WERE contradictory reactions to the birth of the euro doing the rounds yesterday, each with its own ardent supporters amongst the ranks of the pundits.

One was that the fudge over the European Central Bank presidency signalled a weak euro that would be manipulated by politicians. The pound will therefore rise because sterling is a safe haven from the turbulence of the Continent, argued those who see Mr Duisenberg and Mr Trichet as puppets in the unreliable hands of presidents and finance ministers.

The alternative view was that the ECB deal, bowever messy, is now history, and there is no way for politicians to interfere in future in the decisions of 17 central bankers with fixed terms of office voting in secret. According to this way of thinking, the ECB, preceded by the Bundesbank during the next few months, will be ultra-tough on interest rates to establish credibility, so the pound will fall.

The pound did droop noticeably against the mark yesterday, taking sterling's fall to 5 per cent since a peak of just under DM3.10 on April Pool's Day. The down-with-thepound tendency was pushing in the same direction as the existing trend. The question is whether the introduction of the single currency will help this welcome trend continue.

There are two good reasons for thinking it will. One is the shifting balance of economic growth and interest rates as the UK economy cools off. The chances that UK rates have reached their peak have increased with of the most recent data. A slowdown is now obviously under way. Meanwhile, the German and French economies are picking up slowly, while other euro member economics are steaming ahead. This points to convergence at a relatively high level of interest rates by the ECB when it takes its first vote next January, and by member central banks co-ordinating policy in the runup to that handover.

The second reason is that, no matter how much investors might regard sterling as a safe haven from Continental storms, there will be many who wish to increase the weight of euro assets in their portfolios. So far, none of the benchmark indices widely used by fell off his yacht, the JDS finally an-

investors has incorporated the cure, but this will change over the next six months. When they do, many big investors will be required to adjust their portfolios to reflect those weights, and that means buying euros. Stering is the obvious candidate for a with-drawal of funds when that happens.

Obviously events might yet outweigh these reasons—a Tiermeyer resignation, for example, or a relapse into recession in France or Germany. But until some real drama occurs, the pound looks more likely to drift lower than to soar to new heights because politicians could not agree on a choice between central bankers.

Accountants are slow to judge

THERE ARE very few examples of self regulation left these days but one surviving outpost of the old way of doing things is the Joint Disciplinary Scheme operated by the accountancy profession. Post the great fraudulent collapses of the late 1980s and early 1990s - Brent Walker, Maxwell and Polly Peck, to name but three - the accountants too have felt the wolves at their door. Procedures and disciplines are being overhauled and tightened up, and so far the JDC has managed to keep the politicians at bay. Even so, the accountants seem to have a problem when it comes to hanging members of their own profession, and their disciplinary proceedings remain under close public scrutiny.

Six and a half years after Robert Maxwell

nounced yesterday that it was proceeding to tribunal with a number of unpublished findings against Coopers & Lybrand, the firm that audited most of Maxwell's interests. The nub of the complaint is that by August 1991, three months before Maxwell died, the firm should have had sufficient evidence of fraud and malpractice to warrant either resigning as auditor or alerting the authorities. Most of us would find this a far from revelatory finding. How could it have taken the JDS so long?

To be fair, the IDS does seem to be going a bit faster than some of its statutory counterparts. The Department of Trade and Industry report into the flotation of Mirror Group has still to see the light of day. Furthermore, civil proceedings over the collapse and the emergence of a conflict of interest meant the JDC's investigation didn't get properly under way until 1995. So maybe it isn't doing too badly. All the same, Chris Dickson, executive counsel to the JDS, must be acutely aware of the criticism of slowness.

Meanwhile, it is the unfortunate lot of Coopers and Lybrand that this has become something of a show case. The accountants have to demonstrate that self regulation can work if they are to defend their system. Coopers and the four partners the IDS has chosen to nail to the cross can therefore expect the harshest penalties to be imposed should the case stick. And because proceedings before the tribunal continue for the time being to be held in private, the public isn't going to have much confidence in any outcome other than guilty as charged. Self regulation may have its virtues, but for obvious reasons, it can be prone to bad justice.

Swiss clear bank merger

UBS and SBC have won approval for their proposed merger from the Swiss competition commission. Clearance was granted on condition that the banks try to sell 25 of their 550 Swiss branches to a single buyer, dispose of Solothurn, a regional bank, and BSI, a private bank. The banks said talks over the sale of BSI were well-advanced. The two banks now need US approval of their merger plans, and expect to complete their deal in early June.

Rule book

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THE FINANCIAL community gave a warm welcome to the publication of a new "userfriendly" handbook on banking supervision policy. The handbook - commissioned in the wake of the Barings collapse restates and clarifies the rules on banking supervision, and will replace the previous system of issuing "notices to institu-tions". The new handbook comes into force on 29 June.

CRS losses

CO-OPERATIVE Retail Services came under further pressure to merge with its sister organisation, the Co-operative Wholesale Society, yesterday after reporting spiralling losses despite a heavy investment programme. CRS, which controls supermarkets, funeral parlours and home furnishings stores, recorded losses of £25.6m last year compared with losses of £13.5m in 1996.

Lloyd's gloom

LLOYD'S of London, the insurance market, yesterday issued a three-year profits warnings and said members would struggle to make a profit at all on business written in 1998. Despite record profits of £1.15bn for 1995, profits would halve next year as results fed through from 1996. Profits for 1997 would be just £366m, a quarter of their present level.

Menzies sold

WH SMITH has completed the acquisition of the John Menzies retail chain for £68m. This includes £10m of freehold property which will be sold and leased back. The Menzies stores will focus on books, newspapers, magazines and stationery.

Homes dearer

THE PROPERTY boom is not yet over, according to new figures from Halifax. They show that average prices in the UK rose 0.8 per cent in April compared with a revised increase of 0.7 per cent in March.

Body Shop talks

BODY Shop International yesterday confirmed it was in talks in relation to its US activities. The company said it was "aware of press comment" and confirmed that "discussions have been held in this respect".



Politics, scandal, luxury: Cliveden, now a hotel, is set in 375 acres of park and gardens

Home at the heart of British history may fall to Americans

By John Willcock

CLIVEDEN, the country home of the Astor family and the place where John Profuno notoriously met Christine Keeler. could be the latest national treasure to fall into foreign

The Cliveden group, which owns the Berkshire residence as well as the Royal Crescent Hotel in Bath and the Cliveden Town House in Chelsea, announced vesterday it was in takeover talks after being approached by a potential bidder. The development comes

weeks after the Savoy Group

Blackstone, a US investment

It is the Americans who are leading the race to buy Cliveden. Meditrust, a US property group, has emerged as front-runner. However, it may face competition from other US property companies such as Starwood and Patriot whichhave used their special tax status to launch acquisition sprees in recent years. Several UK hotel groups are also understood to be interested, raising the prospect of a bid-

Sources close to the group

was bought for £520m by suggest that John Lewis and John Tham, who co-founded Cliveden, are keen to sell and have been encouraging boyers to make an offer. Both stand to

become millionaires. Cliveden's shares rose 12p to 91.5p valuing the group at

Cliveden, which was at the centre of the Profismo scandal, is part of British political history. Formerly the home of a Prince of Wales, three dukes and three generations of the Astor family, the house has been turned into a hotel, which is set in 375 acres of National Trust park and gardens.

Kingfisher builds position in Germany of Wegert, based in Berlin. ends up at £250m that would

By Nigel Cope

KINGFISHER, the B&Q and Comet group, underlined its ambitions to become a pan-European retailer yesterday when it agreed to pay up to £250m for two German electrical businesses.

Under the deal's complex structure Kingfisher is paying an initial £50m for 60 per cent

The sum also includes a deal to buy Promarkt Holdings, another electrical business with a stronghold in southern Germany and Luxembourg. Kingfisher has options to buy the remainder of Wegert for £20m to £202m depending on

"Strategically, the deals make sense but there are some concerns about the eventual

performance.

look far too expensive."

The two acquisitions will give Kingfisher almost 2 per cent of Germany's fragmented electrical retail market. Metro, Germany's largest retail group, has the largest share with 10 per cent.

Analysts said the deal could herald a move by Kingfisher into the German DIY market. There has been consistent speculation about a possible move price," one analyst said. "If it for Hornbach, a German DIY

retailer which has held talks

with Kingfisher before. Kingfisher has been building a European business for several years. It already owns Darty. the French electrical retail chain, as well as businesses in Holland and Belgium.

Wegert last year made profits of £6.3m on sales of £237m. Promarkt made £222,000 on sales of £164m.

Kingfisher shares closed 16p

Tribunal to judge role of Maxwell's auditors

COOPERS & Lybrand and four of its partners are to face a disciplinary tribunal this summer over its role as auditor of the late Robert Maxwell's business empire, in a case which is set to drag the role of accountants in company failures back into the public arena.

Chris Dickson, the executive counsel to the accountancy profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS), said yesterday he had completed his investigations into Coopers, and he hoped the Joint Disciplinary Tribunal's findings would be published by the end of the year.

If found guilty, the firm, which is in the process of merging with Price Waterhouse to create the world's biggest professional services firm, could face "unlimited fines".

The individuals could face expulsion from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, a move which would prevent them from operating as char-

tered accountants. A spate of spectacular collapses during the last recession by companies soon after they had seemingly been given clean bills of health prompted attacks on the idea of self-regulation. Since then the accountancy profession has fought a rearguard action to retain its role in regulating itself.

Many observers see the impending hearing by the JDS Tribunal as the profession's "last

A senior QC and two accountants, yet to be appointed, will consider a number of complaints against Coopers concerning the Maxwell pension funds, Mirror Group Newspapers and the tycoon's private

Robert Maxwell died in November 1991 when he fell off his yacht off the Canary Islands. His empire of over 400 companies, almost all of which were audited by Coopers, then collapsed, revealing a £400m "black hole" of missing pension

Mr Dickson said yesterday that he had laid complaints against Coopers concerning "the Maxwell pension funds" and a number of other matters. One of his complaints con-

cerned "the firm's consideration, by early August 1991. of its position in relation to the Maxwell entities for which it

The complaint continued: Coopers should have considered whether there was evidence of fraud, other irregularities, defaults or unlawful acts necessitating a report to a proper authority.

Coopers issued a statement saying that it had been aware for some time the JDS's executive counsel had been considering whether to refer the case to a tribunal and added that it would "co-operate fully with in the process".

The firm, which is being sued for alleged negligence over its role as auditor to the Maxwell group of companies, had sought to have the JDS investigation postponed. But, although Price Waterhouse succeeded in delaying a similar examination of its actions over the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), the High Court dismissed its action in late 1994.

Outlook, this page

Liffe still losing ground to rival

LIFFE, London's troubled futures and options exchange, is continuing to lose ground to its arch-rival in Germany, according to figures published yesterday. The London exchange's

market share of the prestigious German bond (Bund) future slipped to just 19 per cent last month, with the Deutsche Terminbörse (DTB) taking the remaining 81 per cent. Liffe's share was down from around 30 per cent in March and 70 per cent last summer. The volume of Bund futures

traded on Liffe more than halved during April, Liffe traded 1.56 million Bund contracts last month, down from 3.23 million in March.

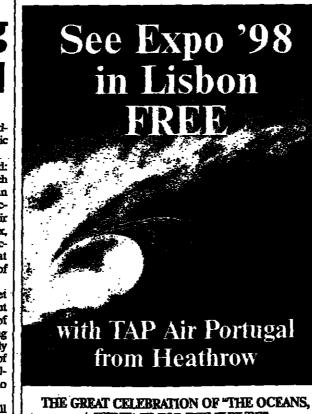
However, the figures revealed that Liffe continued to dominate trading in the more complex short-term interest rate (Stir) products, with Stir volumes up 58 per cent in the year to date.

An exchange spokesperson attributed Liffe's success with Stir products to the exchange's "open outcry" method of trading. DTB uses an electronic trading system.

The spokesperson said: "The Bund future is a much more simple contract and can be applied to current electronic trading platforms. Stir products are more complex, and there is currently no electronic trading platform that can replicate the trading of these products in the pit."

Liffe's board is due to meet later today to try to hammer out detailed plans for the future of the exchange. Liffe's 215-strong membership has already endorsed plans to cut the size of the board and introduce a fulltime chairman, in an attempt to streamline decision-making.

On 21 May, members will vote on plans to introduce a state-of-the-art electronic trading system as well as proposals for ownership reform. At today's meeting, the board is expected to discuss detailed reforms of the share structure as well as the contentious proposal to sever the link between share ownership and trading permits.



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

BP shows its mettle

THE OIL sector was one of the glory boys of the stock market last year, driven upwards by a soaring crude price and huge "elephant" discoveries in new areas like Angola and the Caspian.

How quickly the industry has fallen from grace. Investors have pulled out of oil stocks faster than Michael Schumacher clears the pits. The share price of exploration and production companies has plummeted the most. The oil price is stuck around the \$14 per barrel mark.

City opinion is divided on whether the sector has been oversold and is ripe for a comeback. Certainly there are noises from within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries that a second production-cutting | Source: Datest package might be on the cards. If that happened and prices did finally begin to rise towards the Opec goal of \$17 then a rerating of the sector would cer- the next year or so. tainly be in order.

But regardless of oil price changes, some stock prices have managed to weather the storm. Shell has risen by 20 per cent year on year while BP is up by a healthy 36 per cent.

BP showed more of its mettle yesterday by beating 22 More than a out of 24 analyst predictions in announcing first quarter box-shifter profits, before exceptional items, of £582m. That was 22 per cent down on last time but oil majors generally have averaged a 38 per cent fall and earnings at Chevron and Texaco have almost halved.

The oil price was \$7 lower than the same quarter last year £0.9bn to £1.1bn may look a but BP was cushioned by a strong performance in the downstream sector, where profits rose by 32 per cent on last time.

Chief executive John Browne summed up the situation, describing the results as mate". He added: "We've seen improvements in trough-cycle performance in all businesses. and there is more to come in

Treeting and a	85			~First	-
Trading record	95	96	97	97	98
Turnover (Sba)	50.2	59.4	56,6	11.96	8.4
Pre-lax profits (£bn)	1.9	3.7	3.6	0.96	0.4
Earnings per share (p)	20.2	45.5	43.3	10.6	4,
Dividends per share (p)	15.3	19.5	22.0	5.25	5.7
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600			Alan Land	كند	

perhaps. It is true that Com-

putacenter is essentially a dis-

tributor: it buys computer

hardware and software from the

likes of Compaq and Microsoft

and sells this on to its clients.

margin business, but to lump

Computacenter together with

other distributors is to misun-

derstand the unique nature of

its business. Essentially, the

company has used its contact

with customers as a supplier of

kit to build up a sophisticated

range of services. Customers

-which include half the FTSE

100 index - now call on Com-

putacenter to plan, requisition,

implement, support and man-

age their computer networks.

This one-stop shop approach

accounts for the vast bulk of

profits, and explains why it can

sustain a gross profit margin of

Growing demand has

helped Computacenter's prof-

its to almost quadruple in the

past three years. And given the

mainframe systems towards

networks based on personal

to continue. Goldman Sachs,

over 20 per cent.

This can be a volatile, low-

reality is that unless Opec gets glorified box-shifter? Well, its act together, BP's earnings are likely to look pedestrian for

Profit taking pushed BP's share price down 13.5p to 939.5p yesterday. SG Securities has the oil major on 1998 profits of £2.3bn, putting it on a forward multiple of 24. Hold.

GIVEN British investors' current hunger for information technology stocks, Computacenter looks assured of a good reception when it joins the market later this month.

The mooted price range of hefty price to pay for a company which made post-tax profits of just £31m in 1997. But it's a token of how rapidly valuations for British IT companies have soared in the past few months that a historical "good in a very tough cli- price/earnings multiple of between 30 and 37 begins to look like a bit of a bargain.

Is this reasonable for a company which some - harshly the rest of the year." But the classify as nothing more than a the investment bank which is Abbott Mead Vickers.

managing the flotation, predicts post-tax profits of £40m this year and annual growth of around 20 per cent thereafter. All this makes Computa-

center shares good value right up to the top of the share price range, set at 550p-670p. But don't chase them any higher.

Incepta thinks big

PUBLIC relations firms are never backward at coming forward, especially when talking up their own fortunes, as David Wright, chief executive of Incepta, proved again yesterday.

Not only does he want to make Incepta, which owns the Citigate PR outfit, a global player. He envisages doubling its current market capitalisation in little more than a year and plans to quadruple it within three years through acquisitions in Europe and North

The group was formed a year ago by the reverse takeover of the existing marketing company by Citigate. So far everything has gone to plan. The group comfortably beat forecasts vesterday when it announced pre-tax profits of £5.6m for the year to February.

Of course advertising, public relations and marketing are all cyclical businesses in competitive markets, where a group can grow very rapidly and equally quickly lose its way. But we are probably still some way off reaching the peak.

And the ambitious expansion plan looks sensible, given that only firms with critical mass and a complete range of services stand much chance of winning the lucrative accounts of international companies.

The company's broker, Beeson Gregory, yesterday increased its forecasts for the current year from £6m to £6.7m and looking for £8.3m in the year to February 2000. The shares continuing shift away from edged up 1.75p to 24.75p, yesterday. At 12 times forecast earnings, falling to 10 the year computers, that growth looks set after, they are still cheap relative to rivals like WPP and



Vodafone, Britain's biggest mobile telephone company, is slashing off-peak consumer call charges by 50 per cent to 5p per minute from 10p from 1 June. The company said the new tariffs - which it called the UK's cheapest off-peak calling rates - would be supported by a £2.5m advertising campaign. Announcing its

second set of price cuts in six months, Vodafone said tariffs between 7pm and 8am Monday to Friday and all weekend would start from only 2p per minute for those subscribing to its local call saver option. The move is also designed to make cellphone prices more competitive with fixed line Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou

Pentair tops £94m bid for Vero Group

VERO Group, the electronic components firm, was yesterday "considering its position" after Pentair of the United States said it was making a cash offer valuing the company at around £102.2m.

Vero said in a statement it would make a further announcement in "due course".

Pentair's 170p-a-share offer for Vero tops the £94.4m recommended bid at 157p-a-share from Applied Power. Pentair said it was seeking a recommendation from Vero.

Vero's share price closed up 7.5p at 180p. The latest offer represents a premium of around 43 per cent to Vero's share price on the day before it announced, in March, it was in talks which might lead to an offer. Pentair said it expected the

acquisition to be "modestly accretive" to earnings per share "The acquisition of Vero

represents ... an excellent opportunity for Pentair to strengthen the position of its electrical and electronic enclosures group in two fastgrowing segments - the data networking and telecommunications equipment markets," Pentair's chairman and chief executive, Winslow Buxton, said.

Vero would gain access to expanded distribution and marketing for its products, he said. "We strongly believe that

of the shareholders as well as the customers of Vero and hope that our offer will be promptly recommended by the board of Vero."

Applied Power also said it was "considering its position" in the light of the Pentair bid and would make a further an-

nouncement in due course. The rival bid from Pentair was not unexpected, but the market had been waiting to see at what price level it would be

pitched, market sources said. Pentair is a diversified industrial manufacturer based in Minnesota with a market. capitalisation of \$1.6bn (£1bn).

ital lies the LBS strval. Henley

Management College, which

holds its degree ceremony this

Saturday. The shindig will in-

clude the first MBAs to be

ever, when Sir Roger Hurn of

Smiths Industries, chairman of

Henleys' board of governors, couldn't find his ceremonial cap

for the forthcoming degree

awards, where he is due to lead

He was just about to order

another one when he found his

cap in the garage - where he

had left it after a grouse shoot-

I'VE NOTHING against peo-

ple publicising their case, but

the people organising the "Mil-

lennium Bug Economic Break-

fast Seminar" this Thursday

have gone a bit over the top.

ers at the event at the Dorch-

ester Hotel, Jan Timmer, the

organisers write: "Chairman

of the Millennium Platform,

The Netherlands. Mr Timmer's

appointment by the Dutch

Prime Minister, Mr Wim Kok,

was a stroke of political and

on: "Considered to be the

most influential year 2000 Czar

Cripes. The organisers go

economic genius.

Describing one of the speak-

the proceedings.

There was concern, how-

awarded by Henley itself.

Directors bid to take **Fitzwilton** private

By Nigel Cope Associate City Editor

FTIZWILTON announced yesterday that discussions were taking place with a consortium led by Dr Tony O'Reilly, the group's chairman, and another non-executive director over a deal to take the Irish retail group private.

The consortium is offering 50p per share, a 37 per cent premium to the closing price on Friday. Fitzwilton shares closed 40 higher at 40.5p yesterday. Dr O'Reilly and Peter John Goulandris already control 27.6 per cent of Fitzwilton, which is due to report full-year results today.

Fitzwilton owns a 16 per cent stake in Waterford Wedgwood, the crystal and ceramics group. Last June it signed a joint venture with Safeway to redevelop its Wellworth supermarkets under the Safeway name in Ireland.
It also owns a stake in Rennicks. a sign manufacturing company.

Kyiran McLoughlan, an analyst with Davy Stockbrokers, said he believed "institutions will find the consortium's bid attractive" and approve the deal.

He added that holding companies such as Fitzwilton used to be popular with institutional investors in the past as they were used as vehicles to invest abroad. They have recently fallen out of favour with institutions, which prefer to invest directly in foreign companies, he said.

Other large shareholders in Fitzwilton include PDFM, with 13 per cent, BOI Nominees, with 12.43 per cent and Dunnes - Agencies | Stores with 10.43 per cent.

IMF terms spark riots in Indonesia

By Stephen Vines

in Hong Kong

AFTER a delay of nearly two months Indonesia was finally given the second tranche of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout, totalling almost \$1bn. However the strict terms under which the loan was made have contributed to an outbreak of rioting in the Indonesian city of Medan. This has the disbursement been cut by a third

in turn unsettled the financial markets and share prices slid over 2 per cent.

Originally Indonesia was scheduled to receive \$3bn on 15 March but the IMF said it was unhappy about the government's willingness to implement a reform programme it believed had been agreed. A flurry of talks were then held.

Yesterday it became clear that not only

but it also came accompanied by a warning from the IMF that the rest would not be paid if there was more back-sliding.

On Monday the Indonesian government ended fuel subsidies, which sent the price of petrol and kerosene, used by the poor for cooking, soaring. The government also ended the clove monopoly in the hands of President Suharto's son Hutomo Mandala Putra.

pointment."

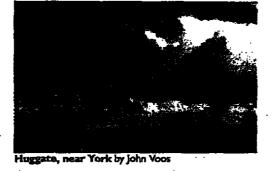
public."

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PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



YESTERDAY's move by the accountancy profession's Joint Disciplinary Scheme (JDS) against Coopers & Lybrand over its role as Robert Maxwell's auditor comes as the current issue of Financial Director magazine reveals that the late tycoon would almost certainly have passed the corporate governance checklists devised to prevent a repeat of "the Maxwell scandal".

Putting the 1991 Maxwell Communications Corporation (MCC) annual report and the Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) prospectus to the test in the light of the proposed supercode amalgamation of the Cadbury, Greenbury and Hampel corporate governance reports, the magazine concludes that Maxwell would have acquitted himself well on paper, if not in his real-life dealings.

The checklist covers the super-code key principles concerning directors, directors' pay, relations with shareholders and auditor procedures. Both MCC and MGN score highly, even outperforming other OVER to the west of the cap- in the world, he has utilised his conglomerates

FD concludes: "The un-

School (LBS) in Regent's Park has got a new team at the top, led by John Ouelch, a former Harvard Professor who become Dean of the LBS on 1 July. Vanni Treves, senior partner at Macfarlanes, the law firm, and chairman of Channel Four, becomes the chairman of the governing body. Martin Sorrell, chief executive of WPP Group becomes the deputy chairman.

new governors: The redoubtable Dame Sheila Masters, a partner at KPMG and a director of the Bank of England; Jonathan J Ledecky, chairman and chief executive officer of Consolidation Capital Corporation, a facilities management company; and Robert F White, a managing director of Bain Capital, a private equity firm based in Boston, Massachusetts.

Mr Treves commented yes-

COMPANY RESULTS Plates.(F) 15.03m (12.44m) 28m (7.1m) 9.6p (9.7p) 4.0p (3.49p 244.(0) 13.43m (17 24m) -4 (11m (0.163m) -3.5p (-0.1p) - (-) 88.17m (16.82m) 5.611m (1.611m) 2.28p (0.93p) 0.35p (-) 75.74m (83.21m) 3 867m (17.39m) 5.0p (21.8p) 1.25p (1.0p)

nerving truth is that the public, official face of Maxwell was quite acceptable to the City." I knew it: perhaps he wasn't

such a bad chap after all. I'm sure the DTI's report into the Mirror's flotation, when its finally published, will bear this

THE LONDON Business

The school also has three

Mr Treves takes over the role of head of the governing body from Lord Sainsbury of Turville, who has spent eight years as chairman. Lord Sainsbury remains as a governor.

terday: "There is a great deal of ambition and promise in the air of Regent's Park." I must get down there and sniff some immediately. I wonder if you can bottle it. Hang on a minute, there's a business opportunity

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INDEPËNDENT INDEPENDENT SAATCHI & SAATCHI

لكذا من ألاصل

The second secon power base at Philips, possibly the most influential company in the Netherlands, to gal-

vanise both private and public sectors into meteoric action on year 2000 issues since his ap-Blimey. As if this wasn't enough about the man who has downsized thousands of Philips employees, Insurance Specialist proclaims: "referred to as 'the Gary Lineker of the Netherlands', recently he can do no wrong in the eyes of the Dutch

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Alaba Handella Pariskak Kaliki Hanga kumang haning ing malayan ing

Come on Jan, hand the crisps back....

I HAVE received a press release informing me that one Peter Childs has been appointed director of the professional services division in UK, Ireland and the Benelux countries for BEA Systems, "a leading provider of distributed mission critical enterprise middleware solutions".

Remember when people used to write in plain English?

THIS is much more like it: "DIAL-A-DRINK", a service which delivers booze and soft drinks to your home, has just been launched in York. The sooner it reaches my area the

139.5p.

Share Spotlight

PowerGen

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share prica, pencê

Second liners continue to scale new peaks

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

time as mid and small cap

shares stretched to new peaks. The euro's difficult birth, with the attendant worries of 5,986.5. higher European interest rates, quickly killed off an ued to help exporters with early blue chips' advance but British Steel up 5.5p to 167.5p the rest of the stock market

was in fine form. The FTSE 250 index ended 29.3 points higher at 5,682.3 the market built on the and the SmallCap index improved 8.4 to 2,665.3.

The day's performance was a continuation of a trend in talks with Houston Indus-Until then Footsie constituents romped ahead, creating keen to find a US partner, a huge value gap with the rest of the market, which seemed destined to drift aimlessly.

The undercard rally has been dramatic and many experts believe the second and third liners, helped by the arrival of new market-makers, will continue to move ahead.

54.3 gain. It was an unrealistic spokeswoman said: "We see Carl Fischer withdrawal would

into reverse and, by the close, Footsie was down 23.8 at

The weaker pound continand GKN 40p at 1,778p.

PowerGen, the generator, was at one time 33p higher as takeover inspired rise. The shares ended at 825p, up 18p.

The group is thought to be which started in late January. tries, although any deal could be some months away. PG is there has been talk it was in negotiations with another US group, Cinergy, a Cincinnati electricity group. Houston has made no secret of its British ambitions and even bid un-

successfully for Norweb. Surprisingly, PG felt the talks, which it did not deny, did Footsie scored an early not deserve a statement. A

halves; blue chips marked York's record high. Buyers statement. The share price stayed away. Blue chips went movement isn't that exaggerated and you have to remember it follows a dip over the last couple of weeks." Keeping shareholders informed is, apparently, way down PG's list of priorities.

BT improved 4.5p to 663.5p with Bankers Trust suggesting the price should be

Demerger hopes lifted Hillsdown Holdings 6.5p to 186p and Christie International, the auctioneers, responded to Joseph Lewis' departure with a 13.5p gain to 296p. The Lewis 29 per cent stake has gone to Artemis, a French investment group run by Francois Pinault.

Music group Boosey & Hawkes' reorganisation, which killed hopes of a bid following the Carl Fischer retreat, was greeted with a predicable offkey response - a 137.5p fall to 637.5p. Last year, on hopes the

IT WAS a market of two mark up, prompted by New no requirement to make a prompt a bid for full control. Thistle Hotels where Brierley Investments, reconsidering its the shares touched 1,062.5p. investment policy, sits on 46 Cliveden, the upmarket per cent. The shares improved hotel group, gained 12p to 91.5p after duly confirming a 9.5p to 186.5p.

Brierley is thought to be wilbid approach. Hanover Inhappy about its Thistle international, long regarded as volvement and, indeed, the a bid target, put on 6p to chain's weak share performance. It could be prepared The excitement engulfed to sell out, which could leave

> bidder. CSFB, the old BZW, helped the Thistle growth by moving

its stance from hold to buy. H Young, the distributor, firmed 2p to 152.5p after splashing out £5.1m for Leeda, the nation's largest distributor of fishing tackle, and £1.4m for Powerline, a branded power supplies group.

JWE Telecom made a ringing début, closing at 125p against a 103p placing. On Ofex, Appian Traffic Technologies, placed at 20p, closed at 35p. It is the 200th company to be listed on the fringe

The football ups and downs had an impact. Tottenham Hotspur's Premiership survival lifted the shares 3p to 72.5p. Again on Ofex, Arsenal lost an early £100 gain to settle unchanged at £2,800. But

Manchester City fell 10p to Aspen, a marketing and specialist printing group, fell 11p to 101p as expected bidthe company wide open to a der, US group Quaestus, decided to walk away. Last month Photobition failed to

agree a takeover. AEA Technology firmed to 721.5p as Panmure Gordon put an 860p price on the shares.

Arriva, the transport group, hardened to 424p with 2 million shares changing hands, a deal which could signal the end of a selling programme. Investment meetings are planned this week.

Ankett, an architect, gained 1.75p to 8.25p after gaining orders worth £100m, which add up to £3.5m in fees.

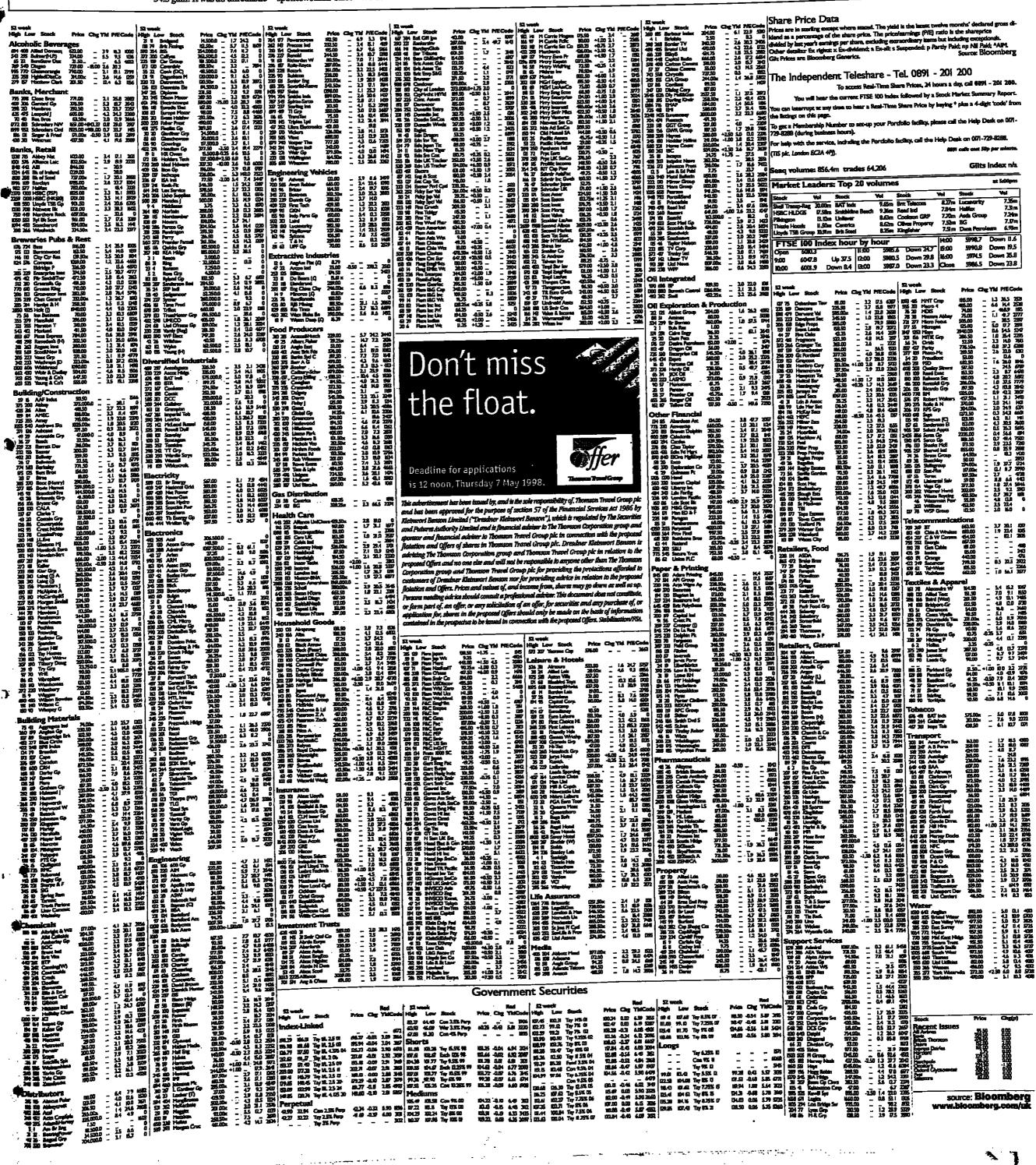
TAKING STOCK

JOHN GUNN, the 1980's entrepreneur, has nudged up his stake in West 175 Enterprises, an AIM-traded company which produces "lifestyle" television programmes and connected books and merchandise. He has acquired 10,000 shares. lifting his interest to 4.87 per cent. His modest buy spurred the shares 10p to 65p. They were placed at 125p nearly two years ago. The price bas been down to 50p.

CARLTON Communications and Granada are due to hold a City investment presentation on Friday. Subject is their joint digital television operation due to start towards the end of the year. Carlton shares shaded 2p to 518p; Granada rose 28p to 1,075p.

FIBERNET, the national communications network group, will make further losses - perhaps £2.5m - this year but produce profits of £6m next year, believes stockbroker Greig Middleton. The shares are 300p, up 2.5p.

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27/RACING

Gulland almost drops Vase

By Richard Edmondson at Chester

CHESTER was not a portentous stopping point for Harry Hotspur as he disputed Henry IV's right to the throne. He was killed soon afterwards during a battle at Shrewsbury. A similar eventuality appears

likely to befall the prospects of another visitor to the walled city. Gulland's main battle will be the Derby next month, but the way whe scrambled home in the Chester Vase yesterday suggests ante-post supporters can already throw themselves, or their vouchers at least, on the sword.

Gulland started the day at 5-1 for Epsom, but this tarnished effort in victory meant he was pushed out to 14-1 (by William Hill). A peculiarity of the Derby market is that you can now

HYPERION'S

2.10: FIVE OF SPADES reverts to his best distance after two tries at seven furlongs. Rain would help the cause of this gelding, who is from a stable that has a good record here. A low draw is usually a big advanection's stall seven could be better, is making a name for himself. it is more favourable than the outside berths of the fancied Only For Gold and Marston Moss.

CHESTER

2.40: BODFARI MUKA is handily drawn in stall three and can go into the record books as Barry Hills's 100th Chester winner. At Newmarket last month this colt was a wo-length runner-up to Queensland Star, a winner here yesterday. keep an eye on. He is drawn best are likely to finish in close proxim-strongly, with the rest well beaten.

Musselburgh

Howles Choice 4.35 Feel A Line

HYPERION

2.00 Thornaby Girl 2.30 Summerhill Special 3.00 Slipstream 3.35 Ballantrae Boy 4.05

GOING: Good. STALLS: Round course - inside; straight course - far side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f; High from 7f to 1m 4f.

far side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low for 5f; High from 7f to 1m 4f.

• Right-hand ovel course with tight turns.

• Course is 5m E of Edinburgh on A1. Edinburgh station 5m. ADMISSION: Club £12; Tattersals £6 (OAPs and unemployed £3). Accompanied under-life free. CAR PARK: Free.

• LEADING THAINERS: J Berry — 35 winners from \$2 runners
gives a success ratio of 23%; Mrs M Reveley 13 from 76 (165%);
Denys Smith 9 from 67 (134%); T D Berron 16 from 56 fides gives a
success ratio of 141%; L Charmott 15 from 119 (125%); P Feesey
8 from 79 (101%); T Williams 8 from 108 (74%).

• FAVOURITES: 177 wins in 422 races (418%).

• ELINKERED FRIST TIME: None.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNER: Tom Morgan (435) sent 372 miles.

2.00 PINKIE PILLARS CLAIMING STAKES

(CLASS E) £4,000 added 2YO 5f

three horses who would be bend as if it had been buttered. quoted at shorter odds if their ner in the next few days they will immediately become favourite.

Gulland's form had begun to look more worthy of Parkhurst than Epsom following the shabby runs of those that finished around him in the Craven Stakes. Nevertheless, he looked the part parading yesterday.

If dogs grow like their owners, then many racehorses are recognisable by the trainers which prepare them. Gulland was typically Geoff Wrage, a long, well-groomed colt with a distinguishing crested neck and noseband. There was another who looked like him, Ridgeway, his pacemaking stablemate.

The pathfinder ran no race get 10-1 the field, but there are at all though, negotiating each

"Paul [Eddery, the jockey] said participation was confirmed. If the horse was watching the Cape Verdi, Second Empire or television [camera vehicle] all King Of Kings is declared a run- the way round and he wouldn't corner because he was ducking away from it," Wragg said. "He wasn't paying attention so he wasn't able to give Guliand a proper lead.

"The other fellow had to go on much sooner than he wanted to and that took the speed that you need at a finish away from him."

Gulland, a 1-2 shot, was actually forced to take up the running five furlongs out and by the entrance to the straight he looked as though he was going to detach himself from the field by some margin. Then it started to go wrong. "My horse got tired and the last bit just caught him out," Michael Hills said. "He quickened well turning in

and a look at the crowd." It was just as well that Chester's is the shortest run-in in the game otherwise Gulland

would have been caught. The Alex Ferguson's Queens-Glow-Worm, whose bottom had been warmed by Pat Eddery at the top of the home stretch, was in front a yard past the line. Gulland, on this day at least, appeared a non-stayer. The Glow-Worm is not considered the swiftest Classic ma-

chine in Barry Hills's Lambourn garage (that honour belongs to Alboostan). Before yesterday his horizon stretched no further than the Italian Derby. The first Chester Vase was a dead-heat decided by a toss

and then he just had a wander

لمكذا من ألاصل

of a coin and it now seems a similar process may be used to decide if Gulland runs in the Derby at all, "It's back to the drawing board and think,"

Wragg said. "It wasn't a very good race, a nonentity of a race. The chances are that we will go [to Epsom], but we'll certainly have to think about it."

Flue Of Species

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Chester - 3.10

Claud Inspector S-1 S-1 25-1 35-2 20-1

Each way a quarter the origin, places 1, 2, 3, 4

Chester - 3.40

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Fact were a lith the colds, places 1,23

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land Star in the first ensured that the Manchester United trophy cabinet will have an addition this season (even if it is only a Cheshire cheese), and Robert Sangster registered vet another Deva winner with Casino Captive. Sangster informed us that while last year there were only three juveniles of Group class at Manton there were at least 12 in this year's batch. Sheikh Mohammed, this is for

your attention. your attention:
THE DERBY (Epsom, 6 June): Corat: 6-1
Border Arrow, 10-1 Gulland, 12-1 Hearn! &
Xess, 14-1 Greek Derice; Ladkrokset: 7-1 Gulland, 10-1 Border Arrow, City Horours & Heaml, 12-1 Greek Derice, 18-1 Ceprl, Dr Fong
& Seratoga Springs; William Hill: 5-1 Border Arrow, 8-1 Hearnt, 12-1 Xess, 14-1 City
Honours, Greek Derice & Gulland, 18-1
Caprl, 20-1 Dr Fong.

French raid for Godolphin

three colts, Altibr, Bintang and Zava, for the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas) at Longchamp on Sunday.

A total of 18 stood their ground at yesterday's second acceptance stage for the race in which Criquette Head's unbeaten Prix de Fontainebleau winner, With The Flow, looks the best local hope.

In the Poule d'Essai des

lowing Cape Verdi's win in the acceptor is Aidan O'Brien's 1,000 Guineas, have declared Kincara Palace in a race in

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: State Fair (Chester 3.10) **NB: Noble Demand** (Chester 4.45)

which Prix de la Grotte winner Zalaiyka may start favourite. Pouliches, Godolphin are keep- a fall from The Whole Hog at

lts, page 28

rst show					Chester			
Chester — 2.10			.10		HYPERION 2.10 Five Of Spades (nb) 3.45 Rambling Rose			
s Pode	74	\$ 1	7-1	11-2	2.40 Bodfari Mulka 2.40 Bodfari Mulka 3.10 Walkeel 4.15 Forest Call 4.45 BOMBASTIC (nap)			
<u>t</u>	7-1 9-1	7-1	84 94	84	GODING: Good: STALLS: In 2f 2m 2f - stands side; rest - inside. PRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best.			
Raid			84		PRAW ADVANTAGE: LOW RETURNS DOC			

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best.

OLaft-hand, fight, circular course, Not suitable for long-striding horses.

OLaft-hand, fight, circular course, Not suitable for long-striding horses.

OLaft-hand, fight, circular course, Not suitable for long-striding horses.

EZS (Lincian 5-1977s SS); Reteriols 215; Dee Stand CS; Course S3. CAR PARK: C2.

EZS (Lincian 5-1977s SS); Reteriols 125; Dee Stand CS; Course S3. CAR PARK: C2.

ELADING TRAINERS: M. Stoute 15-84 (22476), J Berry 13-107 (121%), A Belley 13-125

(104%), B Hills 12-64 (182%), B Meditahon 10-54 (185%).

OLEADING JOCKEYS: K. Oarley 18-77 (205%), K Fallor 12-103 (177%), J Fortune 11-74 (149%), W R Swinblum 10-35 (185%), Pat Eddery 10-54 (185%).

BLRGCRED FIRST TIME: None.

2.10 ROODEYE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £15,000 C4 2.10 added SYO 6f

OMEY FOR GOLD (283) (C) (EF) (J Millian & S Millian) J Berry 9 7 ... K Danivy 18 89

OMES FOR GOLD (283) (C) (EF) (J Millian & S Millian) J Berry 9 7 ... K Danivy 18 89

OMES MARTICIN MOSS (16) (D) (I H Berriett) T Easierby 9 5 ... X Danivy 18 89

OMES MARTICIN MOSS (16) (D) (W & Miss D J Fathres) T J Naughton 8 71 ... D Holliand 3 75

OMES FRANKOW (29) (D) (W & Miss D J Fathres) T J Naughton 8 71 ... D Holliand 3 75

OMES FRANKOW (29) (D) (W & Miss D J Fathres) T J Naughton 8 71 ... J Wester 13 80

OMES FRANKOW (29) (D) (P T Fathres) M Bell 8 11 ... J Wester 13 80

OMES OWN (29) (D) (P J Ethres) D J Scargil 8 10 ... J Williand 11 52

OMES OWN (29) (D) (P J Ethres) D J Scargil 8 10 ... J Oulins 14 87

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OWN (20) HEAVEDLY ABSTOWE (8) (J E Abbre) P Berns 8 6 ... J F Egan 2 V 93

OWN (20) HEAVEDLY ABSTOWE (8) (J E Abbre) P Berns 8 6 ... J F Egan 2 V 93

OWN (20) OWN (20) (D) (P J Chromothal Mones, Text France, Only For Gold, 20-1 Others

OWN (20) OWN

Tonsare value as a large could do no better then tenth of 21 to Julies Jewer as Don-caster (7f) in March but showed plenty of pace to lead until approaching the two-tur-long pole. He might reverse the form with Carsuabo and Branston Berty with ever-third and eighth. Only For Gold, the only course where in the field of 16 - he took the juvenile contest on this card a year ago - must be kept on the right side. Manthes Pride, a Pollesstone nursery where in September and third of 20 to Swino at Thirsk on his re-turn, and Marton Moss, close-up behind in fifth at the Yorkshire track, are others for Selection: TORRENT

2.40 CAPITAL BANK MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) C4

K Felion 7 brilly (3) ?

10 decigned —

— 10 decigned —

— 10 decigned —

BETTING: 9-4 Bodfarl Make, 7-2 Ace Of Parkes, 4-1 Royal Origina, 13-2 Landican Lune, Mytton's Moment, 8-1 County Lodge, 12-1 James Dec, 14-1 Paris 1997: Only For Gold 8 tl K Darley 4-1 (J Berry) drawn (f) 7 ran PORM GUIDE

Boditari Malta was hampered at the start when beating a length and a quarter by Queensland Star (winner here yesterday) on his introduction at Newmarket and he finished
six lengths clear of the third. James Dee also found one too good in Dame Jude at
Brighton after an unplaced debut run, while Landfoon Lane shaped well when four
to Chomper on his debut at Haydock on Saturday and represents the Lord LevertuimeFulks Johnson Houghton team which has done well here over the years. However, this
may result in a winning start for ACE OF PARKES, who halls from the Queensland
Star yand of Jack Berry. By Teanoso out of Summerhill Spruce, he is a full-brother to
by Melody Parties and helf-brother to Lucky Parties and Bella Parties, so he should
be able to or a bit.

TOTE CHESTER CUP (HANDICAP) 3.10 (CLASS B) \$50,000 2m 2f 147yds

BETTING: 5-1 Turopole, 11-2 Top Case, 8-1 Forgle, 9-1 Silance in Court, 8-1 Ivor's Flatter, 10-1 High intrigue, 11-1 Dato Star, 12-1 Mittack, 16-1 Cyrlen, State Fair, 18-1 Cloud Inspector, We-

I High latingue, 11-1 Date Star, 12-1 Mithrait, 16-1 Cyrlan, State Felt, 16-1 Cloud Inspector, Weterl, 20-1 Old Reuvel, 25-1 Filting Around, Leonato, 50-1 others
1997: Top Cees 7 8 til Frohme 11-2 (Mrs. J. Remoder) down 69, 12 ran
FORIM GUIDE

Top Cees, where of the Coral Cup at the Chelstenfram Festival, became only the third
this century to win the Chester Cup for a second time when stamming Etiertoy Park
terr langths 12 months ago - following Chivatrous (1822-23) and Sea Prigeon (1977-73)
and hes as good a chemice as any after his time of 21 behind Raise A Prince over an
inadequate mile and a half at Newmarket, He is 8th higher than last year. However, it
may pay to stick with DATO STAR, a talented type even if still a maktern on the Flat.
Micloom Jefferson's charge, auccessful in the Cheberham Festival bumper in 1995, was
last seen on the Flet when a creditable fourth of 21 behind Cithon Fox in the November Handicap at Doncester the following year and he ran an absolute bifinder in the
same event the year before when besten a tength and a half by Snow Princess - conceding her 18th. Deta Star, who came home by 20 langths from Collier Bay - subsequent imperial Cup, Country Hurdle Trial at Haydock in January, lost ell chance in
the hundling crown proper when losing his footing at the tith flight. The seven-year-old
has yet to tackle this trip but will have no problem with it and Keren Fellon - who was
on 10p Cees in 1995 - tailes the mount. Tumpole put up a polished performance
quartiers from Top Cees in the 31-runner Cesarewitch in no. Norte Futtis comes here in
creaking form and promising apprentics Neil Polland, who was aboard for both wins,
again talces off 7th.

Selection: DATO STAR

3.45 SHADWELL STUD CHESHIRE OAKS (Listed) (CLASS A) £40,000 3YO fillies C4 im 3f 79yds

843-2 AKARITA (12) (Barpuche Stud Lid) B McMehon 8 9 R Cochepen 7 68
2 ARCEMA (8) (Gingadown Recnq) M Chemnon 8 9 R Hughes 4 97
804-34 ATTRACTIVE CROWN (17) (A D Bremnen) K Prandenges (In) 8 9 Scales 5 101
0433- DUE SOUTH (235) (Nektourn A Melcount) E Duniop 8 9 K Derloy 8 56

1997: Kyle Rhea 8 9 K Falon 9-4 fav (H Ceof) drawn (I) 5 ran FDRM GRUDE

RAMBELING ROSE, seven lengths cleer of the third when chasing home yestarday's Chester Vase victor Gulland at the end a half lengths at Portetract in October, can show the way home hare. The daughter of Cadeaux Generus, got of it the mark at Notinghem the time before despite being easy to back and she had been placed in both preceding races. Irish invader Attractive Crown, a Leopardstown scorer last term, was beaten more than times lengths by 1000 Gulmear numer-up Shahloush at the Curagh last month on her return, following with a ten-length fourth to Also in a Listed heat on testing ground at Leopardstown. High And Low was beaten more than two lengths by Scorned (impressive winner of both starts this term) at Donositer last back-end on her since start to date. She comes form a stable with an excellent record at the track.

4.15 EVELYN DELVES BROUGHTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £10,000 3YO filles 71

1 2 ALCHA DANCER (21) (J. R. Roming Brills, 6.11 ... D. Holland 1
2 0 ASHLESH BAKER, (102) (J. R. Roming Brills, 6.11 ... D. Holland 1
2 0 ASHLESH BAKER, (102) (Dand James Partnership) A Bailey 8.11 ... A Cultimen 5
3 2 BILLESHRY PARKES (15) (J. Hein) J. Berry 8.11 ... G. Carter 3
4 6- ENCHANT (214) (Develoy Park Sauch IM Stocks 6.11 ... W. R. Swinkom 4
5 0 FOREST CALL (21) (A. E. Opperheimer) & Wagg 8.11 J. Rieds 9
6 5-40 LAWLESS BRIDGET (5) (R. M. Wast) M. Meade 8.11 ... J. Rieds 9
7 2-5 MUSSCAL 1998 (T. 8) (R. E. Sengsen) P. Chapple-Hyem 6.11 ... J. Figur 7
9 3-42 (ANCHARS (USA) (13) (T 0 & Mes M. E. Holdzorl) J. Berry 8.11 ... J. F. Egan 7
9 3-22 (ANCHARS (USA) (13) (T 0 & Mes M. E. Holdzorl) J. Berry 8.11 ... K. Carley 8
9 ETTING: 7-4 Musical Twist, 7-2 Aloha Dances, 4-1 Enchant, 5-1 Yanomanni, 7-1 Forest Call, 15-2 Blusberry Parkos, 20-1 Audeligh Salor, 25-1 oftens
1997: Bests Ruby 8.11 J. Wesser 9-4 (A. Bailey) drawn (f) 10 ran
FORM GUIDE
Robert Sangster, who hee had trenty wheners at this Tweeting over the years - Casino

Robert Sangeter, who has had many winners at this meeting over the years - Casino Captive went in for him yesterday - and can lend this wish MUSICAL TWIST. The Woodman filly was probably unavised by the mud when only fifth (of seven) to Dauming Lady in the Fred Darling Statices at Newburry on her return but had shaped with plenty of promises on her single start lest term when a length-and-a-half accord to Shmoose at the same course in August, Jack Berry runs Blueberry Parkes (Darryfi Holland) and Manomanti (Vowin Darley), runners-up lest month respectively berind Saush Stokes at Pontefract and Easter Ogil at Beverley.

Selection: MUSICAL TWIST

4.45 CHESHIRE REGIMENT HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 added 3YO 1m 4f 68yds

nor number as one near past got up in a mile-and-a-quarter event at Newmerket three weeks ago on his reappearance but the camera showed otherwise with Neutical State patiting the worket by a short-head. He is narrowly preferred to Bawalan, who belied in by four lengths at Doncaster on the opening day for which he is raised 9th. It's also a new distance for Bawalan but he also strapes as if hell be well be suited by it. Dutch Lad, a length and a quarter actiff, of Noble Demand in The Glow-Worm's Newmarket race, is 3th better and won at Musealburgh four weeks ago but. Better that he was best-en 11 lengths when runner-up behind Indicate; at Lencester and an 1th advantage doesn't spools enough for him to reverse the form.

Selection: NOBLE DEMAND

TV TIPS

tage in sprints, and while the se- of all and his talented young rider

3.10: The admirable Top Cees attempts to win this prize for the third time. The eight-year-old defied a hike in the weights to take this marathon in soft ground a year ago. Although now a further 81b higher up the handicap, he cannot be ruled our. WAKEEL. Cyrian and State Fair finished second, third and fourth respectively behind Assured

ity again. Cyrian, though, is poorly drawn on the outside. Perhaps Wakeel can come out best once more because at Eosom he was forced to race wide, on slower ground.

3.45: Due South has strong claims on form but the Ed Dunkoo vard has and a half lengths in a Listed event Nathan's Hero is an outsider to Gable at Epsom two weeks ago and the winner that day but kept on

vet to hit form this season. The Irish challenger, Attractive Crown, was only fourth of nine runners at Leopardstown last time out but that was a Listed race and this filly represents a shrewd stable. RAM-BLING ROSE will be at short odds but she looks a cut above today's rivals. She won at Nottingham in September and then ran Gulland to two at Pontefract. She was no match for

GODOLPHIN, on a high fol- Rose. The only other overseas

ing their options open having left Exeter yesterday.

Norman Williamson was stood down for 48 hours after suffering concussion following

		in Asturah, Bahr and La Nuit Yesterday's r	esuits, page 28
	4 TANCRED ARMS D Barlor 62 T Williams 2 5 41 RED SYMPHONY (11) (0) J Barry 7 12 P Feasory (5) 3 6 0 PETITE SABO (40) M Britain 7 10 G Bardwall 4 7 0 SOUNDS SWEET (40) J J O'Nell 7 10 S Maloney 1 - 7 declared - BETTING: 11-10 Executive Evant, 54 Red Symphony, 14-1 Thornaby Girl, 20-1 Grazny Helan, Sounds Sweet, 25-1 Public Sabo, 33-1 Tancred Arms	9 432200 NOTK/10N (27) D Crepmen 4 8 3 P Festey (3) 9 10 400 MARKAPEN (16) C Allen 4 7 9 N Carriale 12 11 0030 MR MORRAFTY (16) S R Bowing 7 7 11 Date Gibeon 10 12 0540 NORTHERN MAESTRO (111) Mrs M Pevelay 4 7 10 T Wilsons 8 1 65006 TOP PRIZE (9) (0) M British 7 10 G Bardwell 1 Y Minimum: 7st 10th. True weights: Northern Messio 7st 7th, Yop Prize 7st 7th. BETTENC: 9-4 AB Oc. 4-1 Northern Messio 7st 7th, Yop Prize 7st 7th.	4 630-4 NAJJAR (6) J FitzGeraki 3 8 11 Benedichie Haivorsen (5) 7 5 SLEEPY BASY Serojos 3 8 11 D Griffiths (2) 9 8 305- SNOWRALLS (196) Miss L Perrett 3 8 11 J Carroll 3 7 0 WHITLIAND (29) C Thomisn 3 8 11 Deen McKeywn 8 8 00-055 NGAFRE PRINCESS (5) W Kemp 3 8 8 J Chambel 4 9 0 SHARP GAYLE (12) Semple 3 8 6 G Duffield 4 - 9 declared
-		마른 ((프로드, 항속 Put 나도, 우수 RESUME I MESTEL, (*) 보험된 다양, 하기 다니다 때문에	RETTERS: 9.4 Circulture, 11.4 Mailer, 7-2 Howies Choice, 5-1 Showballs,

Minimum: 7st 10th. True weights: Northern Meestro 7st 7th, Yop Prize 7st 7th. BETTING: 9-4 All On, 4-1 Northern Metto, 7-1 Daily Boy, 8-1 Silpstream, 12-1 Usole Doug, Notation, Mr Mortarty, Yop Prize, 14-1 others 3.35 BRUNTON HALL HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,000 added 5f

4.05 WALLYFORD MEDIAN AUCTION MAID-EN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 7f 30yds US ACAMINE EVENT BY NO BY 1 TREASED 1 L. C. LITHUM ST. C. L. C. LITHUM ST. C. L. C. LITHUM CAN C. T. A. C. L. C. L

BETTRIC: 9-4 Circuitser, 11-4 Najier, 7-2 Hories Choice, 5-1 Snowballs, 8-1 Ginner Morrie, 25-1 Whithelad, Nignere Princess, 33-1 others 4.35 WHITELAW HANDICAP (CLASS F) 9 300-80 COSMIC CASE (S) J Godie 3 B 12 10 ,000-8 TOM MORGAN (29) (D) F Walnyn 7 B 11 11 543000 THE BARNSLEY BELLE (8) J L Eyro 5 B 9..... 12 -33234 GENUINE JOHN (74) J Paries 5 8 8 ...

4.55 SOUTH WEST AMATEURS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m

14 PSRP3 WHO'S YOUR MAN (11) (D) Man N Sharpe 8 12 0.

Chepstow

HYPERION 2.20 Killbride Lad 2.50 Dovetto 3.20 Choisty 3.55 Woodstock Wanderer 4-25 Owenbwee 4.55 Bul-

GOBNG: Good (Good to Soft patches).

Left-hand, undulating course with run-in of 240yds.

Course is on A466. Chepstow station in: ADMISSION: Club
C14; Tattersalls £10 (OAPs £5). CAR PARKE. Free.

LEADING TRANNERS: M Pipe — 46 winners from 208 runners
gives a success ratio of 2219s; N Twiston-Davies 22 from 118 (185%);
P Nictobia 20 from 85 (285%); D Micholson 18 from 78 (185%);
LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 34 wins from 127 rices gives
a success ratio of 285%; R Dummody 27 from 129 (209%); C
Lewellyn 17 from 59 (172%); R Johnson 13 from 73 (172%).

FAYOURITES: 171 wire in 45 races (412%).

BLANKERED FIRST TIME: Dutch (250); Who's Your Man (visored)
(425), Northern Star (450). 425), Northern Star (455).

2.20 BALMORAL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 4YO 2m 4f 110yds 333031 (NLERIDE LAD (15) (CD) D Nicholson 11 10. R Johanon 6222/P RABBOW STAR (23) (B) M Fige 11 5. A P McCoy 2562 WALK ON BY (P28) J King 11 0. C Lieucellyst 403905 ZAFARELU (89) J Jerkins 11 0. P Hide

- 4 deciented -- 4 deciented -SETTING: 5-4 Killerich Led, 2-1 Reinbow Star, 3-1 Walk On Sy, 16-1 Zeitreiß 2.50 BUCKINGHAM NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 2m 110yds 1-155P BRANER EMILL DUKE (95) (D) Mine V Williams 6 11 (D. S. Kelly (7) 23/65F MACY (97) R Dicker 5 11 8

3 8-4USO JPCK (SS) J Tack 6 to 3 Statished
4 023 LAAZBI APOCZ (198) R Philippe 5 to 2 S Curren
5 323-6F TRIMDLARD (21) D Gandolfo 5 to 0 G Bandley
8 PFREP COLD FEET (41) C Michel 7 to 0 G Upton
7 00221 SRATE BRITISH (14) (D) J Alice 6 to 2 Gray Lyone
8 10422 DOVETTO (23) (SE) A E Picce 9 to 7 A F MicCoy
9 04FP PERSIAN BOY (96) O Stravoord 8 10 6 J A MicCortoy
10 0-0005 ZABARI (41) G Tronne 5 to 5 B Powel
11 400315 SHELAS DREAM (27) (D) H Home 5 10 4 G Strantion (5)
12 SP4504 UTCH (21) G Emight 6 to 1 R Johnson V
13 00P EL (30) 65) P Ritchard 8 to 0 S Pox
14 FROSS OLD GOLD N TAN (11) J Poutron 5 to 0 M Edger Byrne (7)
15 6-82 HEVER GOLF EAGLE (76) G L Micro 5 to 0 M Edger Byrne (7)
16 FROM SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (5)
17 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (5)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (5)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (5)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (5)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (5)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (5)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (6)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (7)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (7)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (7)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) W McKense Color 7 to 0 S Septim (7)
18 POLIFY SUPERBEC CRUSADER (7) TO 1 TO 1 S SEPTIM (7) TO 1 SEPTIM (7) TO 1 S SEPTIM (7) TO

2.30 CARBERRY LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £4,000 added 1m 4f

| T | 2-4, UMD SIGUECT TITE 41 | 100-13 | POSSEL (USA) (17) (CD) P Mornish 5-98 ______ T Siddell (7) 2 | 122-0 AMJOU (15) (D) J Pearce 6-8 8 ______ D Harrison 5 | 154-5 | BIG TARGET (27) R Alten 4-9 6 ______ J Carroll 1 | 150-44 | SUBMERHALL SPECIAL (5) (CD) D Barter 7-95 _T Williams 6 | 05-2 FEARLESS BRAVE (27) C Thornton 3-8 1 _____ J Ferming 3 | 200-00 THAMES KETH (72) J D Mell 3-8 1 ______ W Supplie 4 | 6 declared | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 150-44 | 15

BETTHKG: 5-4 Summertal Special, 5-2 Rossel, 4-1 Fearless Brave, 7-1 Anjou, 20-1 Thenics Ketth, 33-1 Sig Target 3.00 RIVER ESK HANDICAP (CLASS F) £4,000 added 2m

3.20 HIGHGROVE HANDICAP CHASE

(CLASS B) £10,500 added 3m

-11 declared hibrarusu weight: 10st, True herdicap weight: Found Acres Set St.
BETTING: 7-2 Freddle Muck, 5-1 Pracy Island, Sparkling Cose, 5-1 Inchestitech, 8-1 Well Timed, Cherrynol, 10-1 General Posgo, 12-1 others

3.55 SANDRINGHAM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 2m 41 110yds AURT DAMPINE (51) MR L HICHERS 4 10 8 APPOID TOTO (51) R Balker 6 10 7 4 40 8 APPOID TOTO (51) R Balker 6 10 7 4 40 8 APPOID TOTO (51) R BALKER (51) APPOINT (51) - 12 declared -Minimum: 10st. True weights: Remember Star 9st 13th, Frankie Hany 9st 12th. BETTING: 9-2 Kruef, 5-1 Woodstock Wanderst, 6-1 Not Forgotten, 7-1 For-

4.25 JORROCKS NOVICE HUNTER CHASE

_		T (OFFICE II) E INDO BROKE OUR
1	1400P1	OWIENBWEE (15) (C) R Ainer 7 12 7
2	633321	SAFFRON MOSS (15) (CD) Mrs S Ferr 8 127_Miss F Wilson (
3	1/5 F2	ARDELL BOY (22) (D) J Grey 10 12 0
4	U/SP2F	BROTHER PRIM (7) A Taylor 9 120Mr M Marroad (1
6		CHAROSCURO (11) ED Perry 12 12 0 Mar S LLoyd (1
8		FALSE TAIL (21) (D) R Barber 8 20
· 7		PLYING IMP (17) (D) Mrs J Galpin 7 12 0 Mise A Goschen (7
B		GOOD LOOKING GUY (28) (D) Mrs J Young 9 12 0
•		Mr A Charles Jones (7
9	PPm13	HALL'S MELL (7) (0) J Porter 9 20No R. Forestel (7
ñ		JB LAD (7) (D) H Rick 12 12 0
ã	Diz. Diz	RAIG CRAZY (18) O Carter 7 120 Mine S Vickery (
۳.		
		RASHILEIGH ARMES (23) R Frost 10 12 0 Mr A Holdsworth (
13	(3-12)	SAINT JOSEPH (32) (37) Mass S Young 8 12 (1_Mass S Young (

Wetherby

HYPERION

6.05 Alcalali 6.35 Pure Value 7.05 Flat Top

7.35 Smuggling 8.05 Green Green Desert 8.35

GOING: Good .

Goling: Good .

Left-hand oval circuit: Puri-in of 200yds sightly uphil.

Course is NE of town on B1224 near junction of A58 and A1.

ADMISSION: Cab 215; Teitersals 29; Course 23 (CAPs 22), Accompanied under the free. CAR PARIX: Fine.

LEADING TRAINERS: Mire M Reveloy — 41 winners from 156 runner gives a success ratio of 205%; T Estatety 34 from 100 (20%); D Nicholson 19 from 75 (25.5%); Mire S Smith 17 from 106 (25%); D Nicholson 19 from 75 (25.5%); Mire S Smith 17 from 106 (25%); C LEADING JOCKEYS: L Wyer 42 wins from 170 (12.9%); A Dobbin 21 from 127 (15.5%); R Garnitry 16 from 146 (11%).

FAVOURITIES: 209 wins in 492 races (42.5%).

BLINGERED FIRST TIME: Emerald Cauter (40.5).

6.05 SENIOR SERVICE CONDITIONALS NOVICE HURDLE (E) 23,000 4YO 2m

10 SEATURE ANT (a) 31 Johnson 10 12 Johnson 11 42 SPARKY (FIG) M W Escaphy 10 12 E Calleghan 8
11 EMERALD CLUSTER (FIG) A Shigh 10 7 N Hannelly 8
12 O GOLLACCIA (wit) B Ellicon 10 7 Shighton
13 TWM PLENSURES J Review 10 7 Shighton
14 SETTENG: 5-2 Alcalant, 11-4 (stand Sanctuary, 7-2 Sparky, 8-1 Neronian, 10-1 Freedom Classes, 14-1 Worth Symphony, 16-1 others

6.35 HMS CERES NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 1f

HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m
5-129 SIMPON (20) (D) 10 to 12 7.
5-1254 SIMPON (20) (D) 10 to 12 7.
5-1254 SIMPON (20) (D) 10 to 12 7.
10-1456 DERPING BRIDGE (20) (D) Mrs S Johnson 8 11 2.
10-1456 DERPING BRIDGE (20) (D) P Notoble 8 11 8. Mr J Tazard (D)
1-P507 ELBURG (74) (D) T George 8 11 6. Mr M REclarable (7) V
528780 LANDED GENTRY (8) J O'Shee 9 11 6. Mr M REclarable (7) V
52878 SIZET INE DAY (8) M Coombe 10 11 6 Feet Jallies M Commbe (7)
22565 GUSTADUAY (13) (C) J Mailine 6 11 5. Mr J D Moore (7)
12546 MEDITATOR (42) (C) (D) R Philips 14 11 2.
1516 MEDITATOR (42) (C) (D) R Philips 14 11 2.
1517 Mrs Stronge (7)

– 18 declared – BETTING: 5-1 Seize The Day, 7-1 Derring Bridge, 8-1 Fountain Bid, 10-1 Bullens Bay, Galatacot Jace, Spring Grans, Milkmount, 12-1 others

Uttoxeter HYPERION 5.50 Rusty Fellow 6.20 Charlistiona 6.50 Lord Relic 7.20 Easy Listening 7.50 Oban 8.20 Quite

GOING: Good.

■ Lett-hand course, Run-in of 170yd.

■ Course is SE of town near B5017. Ultiouser station adjoins course.

■ Course is SE of town near B5017. Ultiouser station adjoins course.

■ LEADING TEALNERS: D Micholanon — 23 winners from 108 numbers goves a success ratio of 21.3%; K Balley 21 from 116 (81%): N Testaton-Davies 20 from 105 (87%). N Testaton-Davies 20 from 105 (87%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P NeCCoy 28 wins from 102 rides gives a success ratio of 27.5%; N Williamston 21 from 132 (15.9%); R Johnson 14 from 113 (12.4%); C Llewellyn 13 from 84 (15.5%).

■ FAVOURITES: 259 wins in 710 races (37.3%).

BLRNCERED FIRST TIME: Cordial Knight (820.).

5.50 A W STOKES DRUMS NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £2,000 3m 2f

CHASE (CLASS 11) LEVICO 9 20 Jar O Shertock (7)
2 132-2 LEDWYCHE GATE (17) [5 Binds 11 20 Jar M Mackson (7)
3 132-2 LEDWYCHE GATE (17) [6 Binds 11 20 Jar M Milackson (7)
4 132-3 RESTY FELLOW (7) 9 Shell 8 20 Jar M Milackell (7)
5 105053 WARNER FORD LEASURE (12) E Lee 2 20 Jar M Berlow (7)

6.20 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) 52,000 2m

2 SSAGP STOWN SABRE (61) (CD) IS STOWN FOR COMPANY OF THE PROCESS OF THE PROCESS

6.50 BRADSHAW BROS OPEN HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) \$3,000 4m 2f

CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 4m 2f

1 -22L1 LORD RELIC (22) (C) S Bookshew 2 27 _ Jar S Durack (2)

2 21-43 THE MALAKARMA (7) (CD) Ms C Belley 2 27 _ Jar S Durack (2)

3 521k- GLEN OAK (340) D Duggen 18 25 _ Jar Jar Pritchisel (7)

4 56312 HORNAY FINC (7) Let'y S Brooks 10 23 _ Jaine E James (7)

5 34-P1 ROSKIEN BRIDGE (18) P Built 7 23 _ Jaine E James (7)

6 573- ACROSS THE CARD (16) P Built 7 23 _ Jaine R Hamsely (7)

7 10299 BEAU BABILLARD (14) P Nichols 10 20 _ Jar O Hammer (7)

8 172235 CELTIC TOWN (14) (C) P Monts 10 12 0 _ Jar O Hammer (7)

9 3-234 HORH PADRE (18) Ms P Charmings 2 20 Jar O Hammer (7)

10 30-12 KEITLES (29) (RF) M Deniel 11 19 _ Jar A Printipe (7)

10 declared - 11 to Hammer (7)

10 10 declared - 10-1 Roskies Bridge, Colife Rown, Kuttles, (2-1 others

PSECTORS P. C. Germandia, 3-1 Matter Cite, 10-1 Fairly Sharp

7.50 LUCIA FARMER HANDICAP CHASE

(CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4f

1 7-35 LRRYS LORD (142) (C) (D) P Microls 9:20 __17 Marphy

2 4935 LRR JAMESCREE (e11) (C) (D) I Williams 12 19 9 __R Ferrant

3 2-470 OBAM (11) (CD) Jies H Krighth 8 18 _____ G Beddiny

4 42002 MSTER ODLY (2D) J King 2 11 4 _____ J Calloy

4 22002 MSTER ODLY (2D) J King 2 11 4 _____ J Calloy

5 25491 GLAMARGITZ (71) (C) (D) P Delton 8 10 13 ___ A P McCoy

7 31LES LOBSTER COTTAGE (10) (D) K Bally 10 10 11 ... Williams 12

8 25712 TROUVALLE (22) A Turnel 7 10 3 ____ R Johnson

9 31LIPS PRO BONO (2) W Cauchard 8 10 1 _____ C Lienwilly

10 -2236 DANDE RIP (61) (D) A Carrol 11 110 _____ D Gallaghar

8571NG 5-2 Gistramyliz, 3-1 Mister Oddy, 6-1 Larry's Lord, 8-1 Lob
10 Catago, Trouvelle, 12-1 Otton, Pro Bisco, Dandle Imp, 20-1 others

10 2001 DAVID BODEN 'BIRTHDAY BOY' 8.20 DAVID BODEN 'BIRTHDAY BOY'
NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000 3th 110yds

8.20 NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000 Str 110yds

1 0x880 EVALTED (12) W Jarks 5 11 7 Gary Lyone

2 0x80 EVALTED (12) W Jarks 5 11 7 Gary Lyone

3 0x90 EVALTED (13) JOCks 6 11 2 Mr 1 Respie (7)

3 0x90 EVALTED (14) KIS IMCIG 5 11 B. S. Coman B

4 POULT BERMIN (14) (15) (10) D Nicholson 5 10 D. S. Coman B

5 3x89 CRARAPPLE (27) (2) D Nicholson 5 10 D. B Johnson

6 006 FERRINO FRUTS (12) N Biston-Davies 7 10 D. C Limenthyn

7 29FU-FOWOODS VALLEY (10) I Williams 9 11 0 D. E Honbond (3)

9 3x45 FAMED LEADER (20) (5) N Hendeston 7 2 0 J R Kantersph

10 3P SWEET PERRY (11) May C Dyon: 7 10 Life (5 Barkot-Sannt

10 4P SWEET PERRY (11) May C Dyon: 7 10 Life (5 Barkot-Sannt

11 0xP SWEET PERRY (11) May C Dyon: 7 10 Life (5 Barkot-Sannt

12 0x3 TEAL BAY (15) S Brookshaw 6 10 S X Alapuro (3)

13 0x3 TEAL BAY (15) S Brookshaw 6 10 S X Alapuro (3)

14 Distant Halls, 3-1 Teal Bay, 10-1 Exatled, 12-1 others

P.252 FHAR ECHO (23) Lungo 7 11 2 R Supple F4565 GUIDALL CROSSET (5) E Caine 13 11 2 Nr B Gibton (7) Q55-6 TARGET LINE (16) May 5 Smith 8 11 2 R Williamson (5) —8 declared.— - 8 declared -BETTENC: 2-1 Radical Choice, 5-2 Purerships, 7-2 Organ Rucksi, 5-1 Pher Echo, 12-1 Mannice, 20-1 Cantle Red, 25-1 others 7.05 WETHERBY RN ASSOCIATION HAND-ICAP CHASE (C) £7,000 2m 4f 110yds

B -20542 RUSTIC ARR (11) (D) (BF) J FickStraid 11 10.3 ______ L Wyer 9 11LPEF PENTLANDS FLYER (14) (D) J H Johnson 7 (D.3 _____ B Herding V 1 1224- BUNERS ORGAN (408) (D) B Licons 10 0.______ B Herding V 1 02256 MARLINGFORD (11) Miss J Jordan 11 10 0._____ B Taylor (8) ______ 1 declared — Minimum: 10st. True weights: Buyers Desem Set 4th, Martingford 7 12th, BETTING: 7-2 Coston Johns, 4-1 Filt Top, 7-1 Deatin D'Estruval, Rustic Ak, 8-1 Baillyline, Cross Cennon, 10-1 Philip's Woody, 12-1 others 7.35 HMS SELKIRK NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,800 added 2m 4f 110yds

- 20 declared -BETTING: 6-1 The Stow Burn, 7-1 Chromson Stick, Change Imp, 8-1 What A Tale, Magnatab Ofesteen, 10-1 Buckley House, 12-1 others 8.05 HMS WETHERBY HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) 27,000 added 2m

8.35 HMS BRAMHAM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 14-033 OVERSMAN (25) (CD) (8F) J. Fiz:Sergid 5-100 ... P Carberry 1-2330 (VERIVOF (23) (D) M Hammand 5-100 D Bendley V 400363 5858MA WREE ESS (5-9) (D) T Efferingion 9-100.L Carmeline (5)

Str 100. Spac Wireless Str 70. BETTING: 7-2 Wynjard Kolghi, 8-2 Executive Design, Dutano, 5-1 Well Appointed, 6-1 Glacusgie, 7-1 Oversman, 12-1 Karnel, Signa Wireless

Higgins the protégé leads the youth movement

By Guy Hodgson

IT IS NOT unknown for a prominent person to sow the seeds of his or her downfall, it is almost a cliché. Alcohol, sex, drugs or power, the fatal instruments are diverse. In Stephen Hendry's case the

Perhaps Hendry suspected John Higgins would one day become his nemesis - there are vicarious delights to be derived in a protégé's progress after all and cultivated the youngster

ever. There will be little pleasure lurking within the six-times world champion this morning.

Hendry had set his sights on being the world No 1 throughout the 1990s but has been displaced by Higgins, whose defeat of holder Ken Doherty in the final of the Embassy World Championship late on Monday edged him just ahead of his erstwhile master. Now the appren-

tice has taken over. When I first turned pro I practised with Stephen a lot." Higgins said, "and he used to give me some right hammerings day who used to pester him for after day. I'm not like the rest, I practice games in Stirling. It is know first hand just how good he unlikely he expected to be over- can be. At the time you don't

hauled quite so quickly, how- think it's doing you any good, but

Higgins, from Wishaw in Scotland, is only the third player since Steve Davis began his monopoly in the early 80s to be the world No 1, and there was a unmistakable sense of change at the Crucible. Hendry, 29, now represents the old guard; the 22-year-old "The game's in a healthy

state in terms of the number of new faces coming through," Doherty, 28, said after his 18-12 defeat, "kids who aren't afraid to perform on the big stage. It's getting tougher, not easier. I'm becoming an old man in this game now, playing all these 19 and 20 year olds."

tournaments this season and is extent that Doyle described his and gone into the dressing room in the vanguard of this youth former charge as "one of the movement, had a standard introduction to the game. Television sparked an interest that was fanned when his parents bought him his first snooker table as child. At 14 he was learning at the feet of Alan McManus, now ranked eighth in the world. in Glasgow before moving to Stirling where Hendry regularly hammered him into shape.

Higgins became part of Ian Doyle's Cuemasters management stable but left because he felt he was lacking attention, such was the focus on Hendry. At the time the parting was not particularly harmonious, but the way and I got into the white temperament - he collected

nicest young men you could wish

Nice, but tough too. You do not record 14 centuries in the world championships - a record - unless you can set your mind on a rigid course. It spoke volumes for his purpose, too, that he could race ahead in the final session after Doherty had eroded his early advantage to 13-11.

The crucial frame was the 28th when Doherty was in the colours but went in-off after potting the brown. "I didn't mean to hit the some turmoil. Like his namebrown that hard," be said, "but I was trying to get the rest out of lated to in terms of blood or

for the mid-session break at 15-13 I'd still been in with a chance. At 16-12 I had to win the iast session 6-0 or 6-1."

Instead Higgins finished it swiftly, reaping a £220,000 first prize plus £9,500 for the highest break. "I am surprised to have . got here so quickly," he said. "I thought I was capable of winning the world title but not now."

Once he realised he was ahead of his schedule emotions flooded over him and he completed his final century in sake, Alex - who he is not re-

Higgins, who has won four relations have been rebuilt to an too much. If I had won that frame the trophy with tears running

Can be now dominate the start of the new millennium like Hendry had done? "No," he replied. "The competitions too strong. I'm capable of taking more than my fair share of tournaments but no-one could win everything like Stephen. I'm 22 and I don't think I'll go backwards, I'll go forwards and people will have to improve with me. I'm sure the standard will be better in 10 years."

Snooker has moved on so much in the last decade that that thought is frightening. It is a much quoted statistic but worth repeating: Alex Higgins managed just 45 centuries in com-



petition in a long career, John Higgins, who has been professional for less than six years, has

managed Over 100.

EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Sheffield (Final): J Higgins (Sco) bt K Doberty (47) 18-12 Frame scores (Higgins
7-31, 28-20, 88-7, 7-1, 1934, 73-62, 130
(30 bresk)-4, 0-59, 0-12 (12 bresk)-7-63,
18-97, 68-2, 133 (133 bresk)-4, 88-5, 138-4,
17-82, 38-60, 88-0, 8-61, 130 (30 bresk)-4, 0-64

Wigan

to stop

Tide turns at last for Sussex

By David Llewellyn

Sussex 302-9 Glamorgan 299 Sussex win by three runs

IF ANYONE at the County this cliff-hanger it will be a surprise. Sussex finally broke their one-day duck, but only just. They appeared to have this Benson and Hedges Cup zonal match in the bag after reaching within three runs of their highest total in this competition, be-

opposition batsmen. meant Sussex would not qualify for the knock-out stages, whatever the outcome yesterday, making it the 11th time in 12 seasons that they have failed Cup. So it was no great surprise coup de grâce.

They only ended their generosity in the final over when the Welsh county were within four runs of beating them. By then, competition and was within sight regain the strike, backed up a son, who took 4 for 53.

yard too far and the alert Jason Lewry ran him out. Next ball, Alex Edwards sent down a slow full-toss. Watkin missed it but the ball did its work and Sussex were home with three balls to spare.

It has taken Sussex 860 runs in their three Cup matches to date to reach this minor landmark, but their continued fail-Ground has any nails left after ure to dismiss, or even contain, opposition batsmen must be a worry to their coach, Peter Moores. At least he can now concentrate on this aspect after announcing his retirement from the game yesterday.

Cottey, at 5ft 4in one of smallest players on the county fore whipping out half a dozen circuit, was a veritable Colossus as he laid into the labouring Sus-Defeat in all their previous sex attack. He scored at a run a one-day matches this season ball, hitting four sixes and three fours as he matched the acknowledged one-day batting maestro Michael Bevan. The left-handed Australian was also stranded just short of his century, to reach the quarter-finals of the his 95 equalling his Cup best. His was a telling contribution, and to see them play the Good on a pitch bursting with runs his Samaritan and throw runs back 10 overs for 40 runs was what Minor Counties 5 at grateful Glamorgan when gave him the edge when it came Lancashire 53-3

But the match was littered dividual contributions. Sussex's captain, Chris Adams, under- figures of 5 for 7 off five overs lined his magnificent batting as the Minor Counties slumped the diminutive Tony Cottey had form with 81, again at a run a to an all-time Benson and reached a personal best in the ball; Glamorgan's pinch-hitter, Robert Croft, scored his third of what would have been his successive Cup fifty, as well as maiden one-day hundred. That a savage 45 from Wagar Younis. was when the wheels came off. who had earlier taken a Cup best Steve Watkin played a ball to 4 for 43. His effort was matched mid-on. Cottey, 96 and eager to by Sussex's veteran Mark Robin-

batting onslaught failed to save That might have proved a chal-

Hampshire from a five-wicket lenge on a slow pitch, but the

defeat to Somerset in the Ben- home captain Peter Bowler,

son and Hedges Cup tie at with 41, and Richard Harden

Andy Caddick, as the visitors over spell of 2 for 10, during



New low point for Minor Counties

with a welter of significant in- LANCASHIRE'S Glen Chapple cleaned up with remarkable Hedges Cup low at Lakenham

yesterday. The 24-year-old former Eng- juries. land A seamer, fully fit after a double hernia operation in the six Minors' wickets as the part-tential. timers collapsed to 52 all out.

with only 19 on the board.

McLean was not even facing

when Caddick began the last

over of Hampshire's innings,

with the visitors struggling on

next five deliveries went for

All were front-foot shots

four, six, four, six, six.

ering their previous worst total of 63, made by Minor Counties (East) against Sussex at Eastbourne in 1978.

Chapple, whose selection as the Gold Award winner was a game, and were always up formality, said: "I had a poor year in 1997, injuries or no in-

"I'm starting off from scratch this season and all I can winter, pocketed five of the last do is try and play to my full po-

"Everything went for us with

Somerset survive McLean onslaught as Bowler and Harden dig in

into the nearby churchyard.

boost from McLean after see-

to loose shots. Somerset bowled

and Adrian Pierson. They were

Fell: 1-0, 2-19, 3-39, 4-77, 5-80, 6-88, 7-93, 8-85, 9-132.

Bowling: Rose 8-2-10-2; Caddick 10-1-60-0; Mushtaq 9-0-33-2; Reeve 6-0-18-0; Trascottick 9-0-28-2; Pierson 8-1-19-2.

Ahmed, Marcus Trescothick 95 for 8.

NIXON McLEAN'S savage overs after winning the toss. Giles White and Jason Laney deposited the ball over long on extra-cover catch by the coach hy when they lost Mike Burns in

142 for 9. Kevan James took a tightly and there were two wick-

single off the first ball and the ets each for Rose. Mushtan

which he dismissed the openers and with the biggest hit McLean fielding, including a stunning win was no formality, especial-

The Minors, who made Lancashire sweat for victory at Walsall last season, were inserted for the third successive against it on a hard, green wicket offering pace and

They folded from 24 for 1, with Michael Atherton and Andrew Flintoff sharing five slip catches between them, and

Dermot Reeve, who went full

ter Hartley for 20. James was at

an Aymes for a duck, but re-

after Hampshire had slipped to

backed up by some excellent season batting form, 170 to out after being caught off a no-

With Somerset's poor early-

deemed himself with 33 not out stretching well forward. At 133

Hampshire needed the late length to his right to dismiss Pe-

ing their early batsmen perish fault with the run-out of Adri-

guises in the commetition, low-rather than nick catches to the Pennett. Sharp, now of Cumberland, Wasim Akram, Martin and

Ian Austin also exploited con-

ditions tailor-made for the seamers, and only the Norfolk opener Carl Rogers got into double figures for the Minors with 11. Left with only 53 to win,

Lancashire eased to their sec- 17. ond victory in three Benson and Hedges Cup games for the loss of three wickets.

Flintoff went without scor-Peter Martin also cooly clutching when he top-edged pulling in the 14th over.

the first over from McLean.

Harden produced some ex-

quisite cuts before being given

out lbw to James, despite

for 5, the outcome was still in

the balance, but Keith Parsons

saw Somerset home with 32 not

Felf: 1-9, 2-76, 3-89, 4-122, 5-148, 6-156, 7-204, 8-285, 8-299.

Bowling: Kirtley 10-0-57-2; Lewry 10-0-51-2: Edwards 73-0-77-1; Robinson 10-1-53-4; Bevan 10-0-40-0; Newell 2-0-19-0 Umpires: B Dudleston and M J Hants.

Benson & Hedges tables

However, Bowler dug in and

It was their worst-ever per- the ball. On another day they ing a skier at long-leg to re- at Paul Newman, and the for-formance in all their different could have played and missed move the adventurous David mer Lancashire player Marcus removed both John Crawley

> and Neil Fairbrother. Sharp, who is the new professional at Blackpool this year, saw Crawley get off the mark by lifting him for a second-ball six, but got his revenge by having him snared at slip by Rogers for

But Atherton, the former England captain, stuck in to finish on 28 not out as Lancashire secured a seven-wicket victory

Somerset's victory means

they now have five points from

Australia are to persist with

their policy of having two cap-

tains in the run-up to next

year's World Cup. Mark Taylor

will carry on as the Test skipper

with the one-day captain, Steve

Waugh, also told to continue af-

ter a meeting with Australian

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (First day of four): Edgbaston: Kort 423 for 5 (R W T Key 89, J H Baldock 73, M J Llong 110, S lobel 5200) v Warwickshire: Chesterfield:

AON TROPHY (One day): Cardiff; Giamorgen 286 for 6 (1 J Thomas 67); Somesset 205 for 4 (K Shine 78, J I D Kerr 51), Somestatt won on the faster ecoring rate. Shenfey: MCC 206 for 7 (A J Clarke 62no) Essex 205 for 7 (N Belson Skno), MCC won

BENSON & HEDGES CUP (One day): Chester-le-Street: Durham v Scotland. Bristol: Glouzastershire v British Universities. Centerbury: Kert v Surrey. Lakenham: Minor Courties v Warwickshire. Morthammer: Northamper.

AON TROPHY (One day): Hinckley: Lecastardire v Micklesex.

Cricket Board officials.

four group matches.

that it acted too bastily in agreeing a two-year extension of Silk Cut's sponsorship in the week before this year's final. Super League's chairman,

Chris Caisley, has said that he and his member clubs should have been consulted.

However, the League argues that sponsorship deals have always been negotiated by its officers and that this deal was agreed in principle while Maurice Lindsay, now the managing director of Super League, was still chief executive at the

The deal, which is worth

Benson & Hedges Cup One-day matches Middiesex v Ireland

The West Indian Test all-

rounder took 26 off the final

over of his side's innings, sent

down by the England seamer

posted 169 for 9 from their 50

Cricket scoreboard

Taunton.

Ireland won loss
IRELAND
J A M Molins b Johnson
J A D Patterson c Sinsh b Rampralash 23
N C Johnson c Weekes b A G J Freser ...0
E C Joyce run out
S D Heasley c A G J Freser b Johnson ...11
R L Eagleson c Langer D Johnson ...11
R L Eagleson ...11
R

1-40-2; Weekes 9-1-35-5-0-15-1; MIDDLESSEX K R Brown c & b Dwyer I L Langer b Cooke Y L Johnson b McCrum M R Rempralessh are

INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 + 971 981 MUSSELBURCH 972 982 CHEPSTOW 973 983 WETHERBY (E) 974 984 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Felt: 1-23, 2-86, 3-104, 4-183. Did not bat: O A Shah, †D C Nash, A G J Fraser, J P Hewitt, A R C Fraser.

es: H D Bird and J W Lloyds.

(39) used their experience to

guide Somerset home with 6.3

gold award for his miserly eight-

Graham Rose collected the

overs to spare.

Minor Counties v Lancashire LAKENHAM: Lancashire bt Minor Counties by seven wickets azot now enic A Richerdson not out .. Extras (63, w6)...... FeE: 1-16, 2-24, 3-31, 4-34, 5-40, 6-41, 7-42, 8-50, 9-50.

Racing results

CHESTER

2.10: 1. QUEENSLAND STAR (G Carer)
2-1 lar, 2. Gelden Silce 9-1; 3. Champaigne
Rider 10-1 7 ran. 1. 2/s. (J Berry, Coder-ham) Rote: 12-20; 1:50, 1:70 Queen Forecast:
1:80 Computer Straget Forecast: 13:00 Non
Rumer: Carequick.

Runner: Carequick.
2.40: 1. CASINO CAPTIVE (J Reid) 5-1;
2. Demoiré Phontom 7-2 ji tev; 3. Himradoth
7-2 ji fev; 16 rén. 2. 2°/4. (P Chapple-Hyari,
Menton). Toite £700; 2:20, £140, £160 DF:
£1090. CSF: £208. Trio: £1540.

1090, CSF: EZUS. Inc: ETSAU. 3.10; 1. GULLAND (M Hills) 1-2 im; 2. ha Glow-Worm 9-2; 3. Distant Minger 15-2.

LANCASHIRE
M A Atherion not out
M A Finish F Nicholson b Newman
J P Crawley c Rogers b Sharp
M H Feithrother c Deen b Sharp
G D Lloyd not out Total (for 3, 13.4 overs) Fall: 1-2, 2-22, 3-28. Did not but: "Wasim Akram, tW K Hegg, I D Austin, G Chapple, G Yates, P J Marva. Bowling: Newmen 6-2-18-1; Sharp 64-2-25-2; Richardson 1-0-10-0. Umpires: 7 E Jesty and A A Jones. Someset v Hampshire

HAMPSHIRE G W White b Rose Boreling: Westim 45-1-3-1; Martin 8-1-20-2; Austin 9-1-19-2; Chapple 5-2-7-5.

4,10: 1. BODFARI PREDE (D Witch) 5-1:

2. Gift Of Gold 20-1; 3. Plan-B 5-2 fav. 1; ran. nk, ½. (A Bailey, Tarporley). Tota: \$4.10; £150, £580, £150. DF: £7090. CSF; £10198. Tocast: £27918 Tho: £12840.

2. Fright Tuck 44-1; 3. Allmettes 18-1, 13 nam. 3-1 few Easter Cgl. nit, 16. IP Seans, Webst-pool). Tote: £930; £250, £430, £530. DF: £9340 CSF: £11418, Tricaet: £183304. Tric: £23990. NR: Phantom Fing.

ot 16850, Quadpot: \$2650.

4.40: 1. CLASSY CLEO U F Egen) 8-1;

SOMERSET
**P D Bowler c Aymes b Udal ...
M Burns c & b McLean
R J Harden low b James
G D Rose low b Stephenson ...
HR J Turner low b Stephenson
K A Parsons not out M E Trescothick not out ME Trascotrick not out 9
Extras (b7, writ, nb2) 20
Total (tor 5, 43.3 overs) 170
Fall: 1-1, 2-84, 3-101, 4-711, 5-733
Did not bet D A Reseve, A R Caddick, A R K Pierson, Mushteq Ahmed,
Bowling: McLean 63-0-6-1; Hartley 8-2-240, James 10-1-4-1; Stepherson 10-2-15-2; Udal 4-0-15-1; Magcareshas 3-0-11-0.

Sussex v Glamorgan HOVE: Sussex bt Glamorgan 19 ram. 100-30 fav Fint Knapper, 1½, 1. (D Nichola, Thiss), Toke 5500; 2160, 2250, 2160 Dual Forecast 1933 CSF: £3329, Tricust: £5928, Tro: £2880

BRIGHTON 2.20: 1. KING FOLEY (D McGerfin) 9-2; 2. Volcamic Ster 9-1; 3. Who'n Milestian 5-1 10: mm. 3-1 tax Nace Spice (Eds.) 14., 14. 10: mm; Sherborne) Tolas 5380; EdS. 5270, EVT. Dual Forecast: EdS0. CSF: 53784 Tro:

27700.
2.50: 1. EUROCINK THE LAD (R Proce)
9-2; 2. Experto 7-2 ter; 3. Errent 10-1 18
ren. hd. 'h. (D Burchel, Ebbw Vele). Tote:
5540; 5200; 5180; 5200; DF: 5540; CSF:
521/0. The: 5220 the: 5230 Non Runners:
Kayzee, Sharbadand.
3.20: 1. SUNIKAY (N Poland) 12-1; 2. Rying Pennand 33-1; 3. Metaderie 5-1 far; 4.
Outline 20: 17 ten. 1%. 1 (R Ingram, Felonton). Tote: 52080; 5390; 5360; 5450; 5830
DF: 533450; CSF: 537789; 78cast 52:5834

W G Khan at Shew b Cosker

"C J Adams c Butcher b Wager

M G Bevan not out

J R Carpenter tow b Wagar

K Newell c Shew b Wagar

K Newell c Shew b Wagar

A D Edwards c Shew b Thomes

15 Humphries tow b Waldin

J D Lewy run out

R J Kritley c Younis b Butcher Total (for 9, 50 overs) _______322 Falt: 1-21, 2-139, 3-182, 4-172, 5-182, 6-219, 7-248, 6-298, 9-302. Did not bat: M A Robinson. Bowling: Wager 10-0-43-4; Weider 10-0-71-1; Thomas 8-0-65-1; Butcher 5-0-36-1; Croft 10-0-61-0; Cosker 7-0-32-1. GLAMORGAN

A Dale b Robinson

*P A Cottey run out

A W Evens low b Robinson

G P Butcher c Petros b Robinson

S D Thomas b Kirtley

Wagar Younis b Kirtley

S L Waltin b Edwards

D A Coster not out

Extres (b2, w5, nb6)

Rotal (49.3 overs)

Trio: £382.80; £436.23 carried forward to

Chester 3.0 today. Non Runner: Pericles.
3.50: 1. COHIBA (J Cuirri) 9-2: 2. Rendom Kindness 3-1 fav; 3. Tellion 12-1 15 ran. 2. 2/1. (S Cuirry) Newmarted, Tote: C1830; \$420, £170, £200 DF: £5020, CSF: £63.4 Tifast: £5631 Tifo: £23680, Non Runner: Rinst is ensert

CEJA Incist: ESEV1 into E23801 reun num-ner: Royal Legend. 4.20: 1. L'ESTABLE FLEURIE (S Santiers) 11-4 (sv.) 2. Contirary Mary 4-1: 3. Sootland Bay 7-2. 12 ren. /4. 1/4. (P Makin, Ogbourne Massey) Tote: E440; £120, £240, £150 Dual Forecast: £140, CSF: £1452. Tito:

4.50: 1. KATHIES PET (S Drowne) 12-1; 2. Ready Fontaine 16-1; 3. I Crisd For You 10-1 16 ran. 11-4 tuy Grace. 1. 1/2 (R

£280, £420, £520. DF: £13430, CSF: £20492 . loct: £16140 Piece 6; £325.37, Piece 5: £10700.

EXETER 2.00: 1. TAMARINDO (Mr A Farrara) 2-5 to; 2. Emperor Buck 9-1; 3. Otter River 66-1 13 rm. Dist, 3. (M Pipel, Tota: \$1.30; £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150, £150

2.30: 1. AFON ALWEN (G Tormey) 7-2; 2. Notice Charm 11-4 tar; 3. Country House 13-2, 17 ran, 3½, 11 (P Hobbo), Tota: 8450; 8220, ENR 6330, DF; 6570, GSF; \$1398 Trio: \$2340, NF) Just Jestime.

3.00: 1. RAMALLAH (J CLECKY) 10-1; 2. 3.00: 1. RABRALLAN (J. CURDY) TO-1; 2. Coole Hill 100-30 fav; 3. Bayline Star 20-1, 11 ran. 6, hd. (Jakes H Kruight). Bate: 27:30: £160, \$2:30. \$7:50. DF: £1400. CSF: £4151. Th. cast: £502.25. Tho: £2470. Non Runner: Sey-

3.30: 1. ROYAL POT BLACK (Mr R 3.30: 1. RUYAL PUT BLACK (M° R Wdgsr) 25-1; 2. Irollan Brople 16-1; 3. Wet No Gln 12-1; 11 ren. 2-1 fer Cool As A Cucumber 4, 1%, (P Hobbs) Tate: 22770; 5450, EBS0, E280. DF: 53270, CSF: E3480 TM-cast: S452748 in Cristo 7: CK3588 carried forward to Chester 3.10 today. Non Flunner:

Hum N Haw.
4.00: 1. MY MAIN MAN (Mr A Farrant)
10-1; 2. Certain Angle 4-1; 3. Comedy
Gayle 11-2, 11 ran. 2-1 fav The Major General. 15, 2 (Mrs Sally Messer-Bennetts). Total

£22.30; £480, £2.10, £1.30. Dual Forecast: £54.60. Computer Straight Forecast: £18.09. This: £85.50.

4.30: 1. HARRY (G Tormey) 10-1; 2. Surrise Special 10-1; 3. Game Dilemmat 25-1. 13 ran. 11-4 fay Soi Music. 11, 2/4. (P Hobbs). 13 ran, 11-4 law Sci Music, 11, 2/s. IP Hobbel, Total: 8860; 52-40, 53-81, 515-20, DF: £1000. CSF: 59845. Tricant: £2272.57. This not work, CA6-25 carried forward to Chester 3:10 today. Non Rumer: Courageous Knight.

5.00: 1, POPSI'S CLOGGS: (J. Leech)
12-1; 2. Quat For One 14-1; 3. Triple Triumph 18-1, 18 ran, 7-4 law Door 10-Door.

3/4, /s. (R Curtis). Total: £130; £270, £40, C380, DF: £1450, CSF: £1650, Tior. £0180. Placepots £26080. Cumford: £50080.

Placepot: £2,840,80. Quadpot: £390,80.

Place 6: £1753.78. Place 5: £134608.

لكذا من ألاصل

Jackpot: £8,737,70.

3.46: 1. BREAK THE RULES IF Norton: Placepot: \$6850. Quedipot: \$26 5-1; 2. Abejany 6-1; 3. Almond Rock 11-2

Smyth leaving

WIGAN will today block Rob. Smyth's hopes of a big money move to play regular first-team rugby with the London Broncos. London had offered the winger. currently in the Alliance team at Central Park, a three-year contract at twice his present

But the Wigan coach, John Monie, assessing his squad in the light of defeat at Wemb ley, wants to keep the 21year-old local product, who spent all of last season on the injured list.

The Rugby League has told Wigan that Leeds are not deriving an unfair advantage for the match between the two clubs next Friday by loaning their suspended prop, Barrie McDermott, to Bramley.

The ex-Wigan forward would have been available for the match in any event, the only difference being that he can now bave a run out for Bramley

Sheffield Eagles, whose civic reception today has been postponed because of a double booking, will parade the Silk Cut Challenge Cup for their supporters at the Super League match against Wigan this Sat-

urday. The League has reacted to criticism from Super League

Becker

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League.

£1.8m, takes the game through to the end of tobacco sponsorship of sport and also bridges the potentially awkward gap when the Cup final must move away from Wembley during rebuilding.

Today's fixtures Football

7.30 unless stele UEFA CUP FINAL Lazio v internazionale (7.45) (at Parc des Princes, Paris) FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Liverpool v Arsenal (7.45) ... PONTINS LEAGUE Division One: Oldhern V West Bromwich (7JJ).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First:
Division: Ipswich v Crystal Paleae (7JJ).

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First
Division: Kidagrove Athetic v Blackpool.

Rovers (8JI); Citheroe v Baracough.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE First Di-vision: Greenwich Borough v Feversham Town (730); Swanley Furness v Sheppey Utd.

Rugby League

RUGBY LEAGUE First Division: Swinton v Devistory (730); Waterfield v Keighiny (730); Whitehaven v Leigh (730), Second Division: Doncaster v Belley (730). Rugby Union

WILLIS CORRON HIBERNIA CUP: RAF v Royal Navy (70) (at RNFS Portsmouth)

198

Van-Zandvliet denied all allegations of counterfeit trading and was bailed to re-appear in court on 16 June. Meanwhile, Leicester moved swiftly to defuse a potentially explosive disciplinary situation by publicly clearing their opponent and declaring the matter closed.

The photographs appeared to show Van-Zandvliet biting Back on the head during a prolonged dust-up between the rival packs in the closing stages of England tour place while Fran-Newcastle's 27-10 victory over the Tigers. However, Back said yesterday: "I can't remember being bitten on the head at any stage. I was bitten on the thumb at some stage, but I have no for the team," said Pienaar yescomplaint as I could have been hught by accident in the act of pushing a player away."

Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, added: "In these rucks and mauls, you get players pressed very tightly together and, if someone gets pressed and somebody has their mouth open, it can be misconstrued." Wheeler confirmed that Leicester would take no further steps, apart from to hold an internal investigation into the dismissal of Will Greenwood for butting.

It now remains to be seen whether the Rugby Football Manock, chooses to pursue the referee, will make no mention ment on something I didn't once, agree with them.

see and I won't make any mention of it in my report," said the Bristoi official - but Manock's team have taken the occasional firm stand in recent months. Ironically, their most celebrated "examples" were Dean Ryan and Nick Popplewell, two Newcastle forwards.

It now seems certain that Greenwood will miss England's summer tour of the southern hemisphere; Morrison's report is likely to paint a damning picture of his injury-time butt on Rob Andrew and International Board guidelines suggest a 60day ban for any misuse of the head. England are due to fly to Australia later this month and return in early in June.

This Saturday's Tetley's Bit-

ter Cup final between Saracens and Wasps at Twickenham is likely to throw two of the highest-profile players in the game together in varying states of physical distress. Lawrence Dallaglio, the Wasps captain, is a definite starter despite a shoulder injury that jeopardises his cois Pienaar, the Saracens player-coach, says he has a 70 per cent of risking his dodgy hamstring. "I'm desperate to play, but it's a matter of what is best terday. "I'm no more than 70 per cent fit, but that is a good 20 per cent better than this time last week. We'll make a final decision tomorrow."

Pienaar's inspirational participation would be of incalculable benefit to Saracens, and there were signs yesterday that he will start the match. So too might Kyran Bracken, the scrumhalf, whose groin injury improved sufficiently to allow him a full training session yesterday.

The only thing that will definitely be missing from the weekend showpiece is the cel-Union's disciplinary panel, un- ebration music habitually der the chairmanship of Roy played by both London clubs when a try is scored. "The RFU matter. Ed Morrison, the match don't think it's quite the thing," said Geoff Huckstep, the Wasps of Van-Zandvliet's role in the vi- chief executive. Most intelligent olent conclusion - "I can't com- life on the planet might, for



Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager (right) welcomes Jaap Stam to Old Trafford

Nesta can tame rampant Ronaldo

Football

By Paddy Agnew

A FASCINATING duel between Internazionale's Brazilian striker Ronaldo and the Lazio defender Alessandro Nesta could provide one of the keys to tonight's all-Italian Uefa Cup final at the Parc des Princes in Paris. Nesta, 22, one of the stars of

Lazio's successful season and now an automatic choice in Italy's World Cup side, will have the difficult task of conthe first Uefa Cup final to be settled in a one-off match rather than over two legs.

"Ronaldo's the best there is, because he can do the most skilful of things even in full flight

when many others would probably mess it up." Nesta said yes-

Ronaldo, for his part, has already struggled against Lazio in two Serie A games this season: a 1-1 draw in Milan in October and an emphatic 3-0 win for Lazio in Rome in February. "For me, Nesta has been the

best defender of the se However, for him and for all of us, it will be different in Paris," Ronaldo said. The Ronaldo-Nesta clash is

just one fascinating aspect of a contest that brings together taining an in-form Ronaldo in two star-studded sides that cur-Lazio midfielder Aron Win-

Diego Simeone as well as the talented winger Francesco Mo- eliminated at the quarter final riero, Lazio can reply with two Italian international strikers in by Borussia Dortmund. Roberto Mancini and Pierluigi Both sides are at close to full Casiraghi, the Czech midfielder Pavel Nedved and the Yu-

Jugovic. Lazio, fourth in Serie A. ing Milan in last week's Italian jury for two weeks. Cup final.

rently rank among the best in impressive track record which while Casiraghi comes into the Europe. While Inter field play- has seen them win the 1964 and ers of the calibre of the former 1965 European Cups and the 1991 and 1994 Uefa Cups in 34 ter, the French schemer Youri seasons in Europe. Lazio, by Djorkaeff, the classy Argentine contrast, are playing in their first

If the schedule is reduced to

seven top-tier events, one of the

big European tournaments

would lose that status, either

Monte Carlo, the Italian Open

midfielders Javier Zanetti and European final. Their previous best performance saw them stage of the 1994-95 Uefa Cup

strength. Lazio are without only the injured Croatian striker goslav playmaker, Vladimir Alen Boksic, while Inter are still doubtful about the 34-year-old sweeper Giuseppe Bergomi. come into the game on a high He hopes to extend his record after winning their first major of European appearances to 108 trophy for 24 years by defeat- but has been nursing a thigh in-

Salvatore Fresi is likely to Inter, meanwhile, approach step into the libero role normally the final looking to improve an occupied by the Inter captain Lazio attack in place of Boksic. Internazionale (probable): Pagliuca; Bergo-mi or Fred, Sartor, Colonnesse, West; Mortero, Winter, Simeone, Zanetti; Djorkaefi, Ronaldo.

TODAY'S NUMBER

431

The number of aces served in 30 matches this year by Britain's No 1 tennis player, Greg Rusedski. He leads the 1998 ATP Tour statistics, 138 aces ahead of Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic, his fellow left-hander, who has served 293 aces but played only 21 matches. Sweden's Thomas Enqvist is third with 285 aces from 32 matches.

Gullit move to Fulham ruled out

By Mark Bradley

RUUD GULLIT'S agent yesterday ruled out any chance of the Dutchnian returning to English football with Fulham next season, following a report that the London's dub chairman, Mohamed Al Fayed, was lining up the former Chelsea manager to replace Kevin Keegan.

The report suggested that the billionaire Harrods owner would offer Gullit a lucrative deal to replace Keegan and Ray Wilkins if the Second Division club fail to win promotion in the play-offs this month.

However, Gullit's agent, Phil Smith, said: "With all respect to Fulham, the only possible connection between them and Raud is that he loves London.

"I imagine Kevin Keegan would have something to say on the matter. Rund is looking very carefully at his options but has already virtually stated he will not come back to English football next season.

"It will take a top Continental club to persuade him to continue his managerial career and carry on where he left off at Chelsea." Gullit said last month: "I

want to do something I really Photograph: Reuters enjoy but I'm not in a hurry to stuck in again next season. make a decision.

"There were suggestions I could have returned to the Pre- nothing more than one would miership if I had wanted to, but that would have been seen as revenge against Chelsea and I didn't want that."

Gullit was sacked by Chelsea in February to be replaced by Gianluca Vialli, and has since been continuing his commercial made available for new players.

interest: outside the game, including the recent launch of his autobiography. He is also taking a Dutch Football Federation coaching course.

The Barnsley chairman. John Dennis, is confident that his marager Danny Wilson will steer the club back to the Premiership next season.

Wilson pledged his loyalty to the Tykes and vowed to honour the remaining two years on his contract following Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Leicester which sent Barnsley back to the First Division after just one season in the top flight.

Dennis, who admits Wilson has conducted himself with dignity in the face of constant adversity over the last nine months, believes he will continue to do so throughout the close season. "I have an undying belief in Danny Wilson, just as I have in my football club," he said. "I genuinely felt we would be good enough to survive in the Premiership this season, but that has obviously not been the case.

"Equally, I am confident that with the manager we have and the squad of players we are going to try to keep together, we will roll our sleeves up and get

"Danny has handled himself very well all season, which is expect from him. I will continue to expect him to conduct himself well when there is likely to be a lot of speculation surrounding him and his future this summer." Dennis refused to reveal whether any funds will be

Evans in line for call from Walsall

ALLAN EVANS is being lined up as Walsall's new manager following the dismissal of Jan Sorensen. Evans, the former assistant

manager at Aston Villa, has been out of work since leaving Villa when John Gregory replaced Brian Little as manager. He is expected to move into the Walsall job some time in the next few days.

Sorensen left the Second Division strugglers with a thinly-veiled attack on the club's directors. The former Danish international and ex-Ajax player, who had a year left on his contract, was bitter at his treatment after taking Walsall to the fourth rounds of the FA Cup and the Coca-Cola Cup and Southern Area final of the Auto Windscreens Shield, makings an estimated £750,000 for the club. However, Walsall only

narrowly avoided relegation. Birmingham are preparing to offer their manager, Trevor Francis, a new contract after his First Division play-offs. City's competition."

chairman, David Gold, will offer Francis a new two-vear deal that would keep him at St Andrew's until the year 2000. Wolves have given free

transfers to the former England winger Tony Daley and Dariusz Kubicki, a former Polish international.

The Football League attracted its biggest crowds for over half a century in the season just finished. A total of 13,558,561 watched Nationwide League matches this season, which was the largest number for the bottom three divisions since 1971-72.

The rise from last year was 13.2 per cent, with crowds in the First Division, in which the average gate was 15,078, rising by 20.1 per cent. The Second Division total was up 8.9 per cent, with only the Third Division showing a decline, of 5.2 per

The Football League's spokesman, Chris Hull, said: "The figures across the board are phenomenal and illustrate the enduring attraction of the side missed out on a place in the world's oldest league football

rainy day to see what may be ers, upset the Monte Carlo Becker's last appearance at the champion, Carlos Moya. The

BORIS BECKER, the former the centre court on a cool and Wimbledon champion now in semi-retirement, lost to Magnus Gustafsson in the first round of tournament, which is a crucial the German Open in Hamburg yesterday.

Gustafsson is 31 and one year older than Becker, who is I lose my concentration and now playing only selected tour- make the wrong shot," Becker naments. The Swedish veteran

won 7-5, 6-4, breaking Becker's his sharpness by playing fewer in the game. But Mark Miles, serve once in each set.

About 8,000 people packed warm-up for French Open lat-

"There are moments when said when asked if he had lost

Becker's defeat may prove Hamburg swansong

Earlier, Tommy Haas, one of the new crop of German play-20-year-old German beat the 10th-seeded Spaniard 6-2, 7-5.

The German Open is one of the so-called Super Nine events that the ATP has proposed reducing to seven starting in 2000. in an attempt to revive interest

the chief executive of the ATP Tour, said perhaps all nine will remain on the schedule. "Player commitment still has to fall into place, but clearly there is movement," Miles said.

ranked players to be committed to play at its top-tier events and Miles said more and and more players seem to be accepting the idea of playing all nine.

Tim Henman, seeking extra The ATP wants all the topclay-court practice in Hamburg

this week, is a surprise entry in the men's doubles with the Chilean left-hander Marcelo Rios, who was world No 1 for two weeks earlier this year.

or the German Open.

Awards at Murrayfield yesterday. The New Zealand-born flanker was a key member of the Watsonians side which clinched the first Scottish league title in 25 years of trying last Saturday at the home of the former champions Metrose.

Squash

Squash
Gloucester's former national champion Fiona Geaves claimed her first
World Tour victory in tour years by
bealing Australia's Kate Major 9-5-9-2
9-0 in the final of the Santa Barbara
Open in the United States yesterday.
SANTA BARBARA OPEN (Californial:
Semi-finale: K Major (Aus) bt 7 Shanton
(Eng) 6-9-9-4-7-9-7: F Geaves (Eng)
bt 5 Brind (Eng) 9-3-9-3-9-1. Final:
Geaves bt Major 8-5-9-0.

Table tennis

The England champion Matthew Syed and Lisa Lomas, the National women's title holder, have retained their positions at the top of the new England ranking lists Issued yesterday.

Tennis

Tennis
Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman have both entered this year's Stella Artois grass-court championships at Queen's Q

repower in the lifet round of the Arrivalenger tournament in Liubijana, Slovenia, yesterday. Richardson reached a career-high world ranking of 133 last November but, in the latest ATP rankings announced yesterday, the 24-year-old had dropped to 162.

GERMAN OPEN (Hamburg) First round: T Heas (Ger) bt C Move (So) 6-2 7-5; B (Jamesh (Ger) 6-8 Kerhecher (Ger) 6-3 3-6 6-2; M Gustafsson (Swe) bt B Seck-er (Ger) 7-5 6-4; N Lapertif (Exu) bt B Steven (Kg) 6-6-4; O Gross (Ger) bt N Klefer (Ger) 3-6 8-2-6; S Dosedal (Cz Pep) bt D Hrbaty (Sud) 6-0, 6-2

(SW) 6-0 6-2.

(TALIAN OPEN (Rome) First round: S Tisstud (P) bt L Golaria (II) 2-6 6-4 6-2; D Van
Roost (Sel) bt K Hebbudows (Slovet) 6-4 6-2;
M Samchez Lorenzo (So) bt M Oramans.
(Ned) 6-4 6-1; F Li (Ch) bt O Barabanchicova (Bul) 7-6 6-2; S Pilitowski (Pl) bt
S Appetrers (Bel) 6-1 3-8 6-3; N Sausersalsu
(Jon) bt L Courrios (Bel) 1-6 6-2 6-4; L Raymond (JS) bt A-G Sidot (F1) 2-6 6-3 7-5; A
Miller (JS) bt R Grande (II) 6-3 6-0; S Fanna (It) bt F Lubieri (II) 6-0 6-1; A Fusai (F1)
bt A Sugiyarra (Japan) 7-6 6-0; J Kandarr
(Ger) bt F Labat (Arg) 4-6 6-4 7-5.

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Silk Cut in a sudden surge

Sporting Digest

en us it.

FROM last to first, positions on the eighth leg of the Whitbread Race were turned upside down yesterday as two British skippers. Paul Standbridge and Lawrie Smith, moved from eighth and ninth to share the lead, writes Stuart Alexander from Annapolis, Maryland, First, the hoats taking a

northerly track on the western Atlantic side of the 3,400 mile run from here to La Rochelle were favoured, as Paul Cayard leson EF Language. Then it looked as if both Knut Frostad and Grant Dalton, who had stayed further south to pick up more quickly the free ride of the Gulf Stream, would come marging through.

Languishing at the back were Standbridge, whose Toshiba added a five-hour tangle with a fish trap on the way out of Chesapeake Bay to running aground on the way in, and Smith, whose Silk Cut had also chosen the middle way. These two then picked up their skirts and set the fastest average speeds to go ahead of Cayard. fust behind EFL the all-

woman crew in the syndicate partnership put Christine Guilor and EF Education into tourth. And Dalton's Merit Cup, just ahead of Frostad's Kvaerner, could only watch as they dropped back to take up the rearguard pusitions.

MAJOR LEAGUE: Chicago White Sox 6 Are-helm 5; Caldend 7; Brouto 4; Cinchmatl 4 Montreal 1; Colorado 11 Philadelphia 2; Av-lanta 4 Los Angeles 2; San Francisco 8 Flori-da 0; San Diego 13 Milwauliase 5; Artcona 4 NY Mets 2 (11 smilling) AMERICAN LEAGUE

10 *E77* -14 500 5¹/₄ 16 A48 7 Central Division

21 9 .700 ·
16 14 .533 5
16 15 .516 5%
14 17 .452 7%
8 23 .258 3% Basketball NEA WESTERN CONFERENCE PLAYOFFS Somi-first (best-of-soven series): Seatile 106 Los Angeles 92 (Seatile Ipad 1-0).

Bowis
WATERLOO MOCED PAIRS: Final day
questriers: M McKay & A Lea (Cadishead)
it Ji-Int & B Hart (Moston) 21-2; \$ College
& A College (Littleborough) bt J Givens &
B Lindley (Cadishead) 21-20; C Bleekley &
B Lindley (Cadishead) 21-20; C Bleekley &
K Standshead) 21-21; J Boodley &
Morris (Southport) 21-17; J Boodley &
Morris (Southport) 21-17; J Boodley &
Moverad (Freston) 21-21; J Nicholson & R
Nicholson (Holmiteid) bt M Boyle & P Kelly
(St Helens) 21-20; B Bury & H Hargesters
(Blackburn) bt P Gâroy & H Gâroy (Bradford)
21-11; P Dawles & M Wirmington (Northwich)
bt M Beatille & E Garth (Futerood) 21-18; D
McLoughin & D McLoughin (Thorrion) bt
P Baller & I Beleir (Stoke on Theat) 21-18.

Manchester's Michael Brodie has been confirmed as the mandatory challenger to Sergel Devalor, the new European super-bantamweight title holder. The Ukrainian won the belt when he stopped Spencer Oliver in the 10th round of his challenge at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday night. Oliver is still in hospital after an operation to remove a blood dot on his brain. Birmingham's Robert McCracken has suffered a rib injury while spanning at his Las Vegas training camp and the middleweight is now in danger of hav-ing to pull out of his next fight against Bo James in Corpus Christie, levas, on 19 May.

on 19 May.

Dean Pithie's hopes of challenging for the World Booing Organisation world super-featherweight title in Paris later this month now look sim. Coventry-based Pithie had been hoping to meet Julien Lorcy in the French capital on 16 May after the title holder, the Welshman Barry Jones, tailed a brain scan, But objections have been raised in Pithie meeting Lorcy as he is only to Pithie meeting Lorcy as he is only ranked No 4 by the WBO.

Equestrianism

Equestrianism
Professor Leo Jeffcott, Dean of Cambridge Veterinery School, has been appointed as chalman of the veterinery committee of the International Equestrian Federation. He replaces Peter Cronau and becomes the first British vet to hold this office for a four-year term. Plans to hold the 1999 European Show Jumping Championshis at the Yorkshire Agmouttural Society's farrogate showground have been abendened. The society has withdrawn the offer for use of the venue, because the organisers had been unable to give a firm commitment than the championships would go ahead. Football

Football

Leicaster's Emile Hesley looks set to lead England's assault on the Toulon Under-21 fournament in France which starts next week. The Filhert Street striker is one of seven players with under-21 experience in the provisional 24-man squad named by the coach, Pater Taylor yesterday, Taylor, who will reduce the party to 18 by the time the squad filies out to the Riviera, has not named Liverpool's Michael Owen or West Ham's Filo Ferdinand who are challenging for places in the senior squad. Harms 140 Faramano who are char-lenging for places in the serior squad. BMGLAND UNDER-21 PROVISIONAL SCHAD (foulor Under-21 townsment, France; starting 14 May): Stimoneen (four-ment) Locas (Presion). Tyler (Petaborough). Clegg (Marchester Under), Curtis (Man-chester Under), Rogere (Notingham Forest).

Howe (Soumernouth), Purse (Birminghem), Marish (Oxford), Koziak (Derby), Effort (Derby), Carragher (Liverpool), Lampard (Mask Ham), Hendrie (Aston Villa), Morphy (Liverpool), Caleby, Gouthempton), Caleby, Gouthempton), Caleby, Gouthempton), Caleby, Powell (Oxford), Heisely (Liverpool), Caleby, Powell (Oxford), Heisely (Liverpool), Allen (Ichanism), Bent (Crystal Palace). Dunfermine Athletic were yesterday awarded £15m from the Scottish Sports Council and the Football Trust to help them redevelop East End Park in time for next season's Scottish Premier Lasque. The capacity of two new stands will be 3004, including provision for disabled speciators, bringing the overall capacity to an all-seated 12,500 when completed.

12,500 when completed.

Tom O'Malley has been voted the new chairman of Hiberhan following Lex Gold's rasignation after the club were relegated at the weekend. Gold stepped down within an hour of Hiberhan's 2-1 loss to Dundee United at Easter Road which meens they will finish bottom of the Premier Division. Celtic have lined up a pre-season friendly in honour of Bolton-born defriendly in honour of Bolton-horm de-fender Jimmy Philips at the Reebok stadium. The 32-year-old had two spells at Botion and also played at Pangers, Oxford and Middleshrough. The game is set for Tuesday 4 August. FRANCE PRELIMINARY WORLD CUP SCHAD: Goelloepers: Barthez (Monaco). Charbonnier Musers). Leng (Mels Ham). Lettel (Metz). Defenders: Blanc (Muserille). Candels (Roma). Desally (Helsni). Discoud. (Korsco). Leboud (Chelsni). Lizarrazi (Beyern Munch). Thuram (Perma). Bild-felders: Ba (Minn). Boghosstan (Semp-coris). Descharge (Liverhus). Normede (Austro). Operhaet (Interezionels). Karen-bou (Real Madrid). Laigle (Sempdoris). Lamouchi (Austro). Petit (Arasna). Priss (Metz), Visitra (Ameria). Digarry (Mer-selle). Guiverch (Austro). Honoreda: Anelia (Arasna). Digarry (Mer-selle). Guiverch (Austro).

ice hockey Rallying

CORSICA RALLY Landing positions after 12 stages: 1 C McRee (GE) Subaru Impreza 2rr 48mm 21,5sec; 2 C Sainz (Sp) Toyots Corola +471sec; 3 P Liabt (ft) Subaru Impreza +518; 4 F Deleccur (Fr) Paugeol 306 1:178; 5 D Auriol (Fr) Toyots Corola 1:209; 6 B Thiny (Se) Ford Escott 1:255; 7 G Parizzi (Fr) Paugeol 306 1:415; 8 P Bugelidi (Fr) Carolin 2:458; 9 J Kanidaman (Fri) Ford Escott 3:2544; 10 F Doerden (Fr) Chrolin 4:028.

Rugby Union Cameron Mather was voted player of the year in the Terments/Scotsman

Crunch time for captain Stewart in France

By Derek Pringle Cricket Correspondent

IT IS A rare thing for full-time captaincy to elude someone for 75 Tests, for it suggests that important qualities are lacking. For Alec Stewart, named yesterday as Michael Atherton's successor as England captain, the eventual promotion has come more by default than from the possession of outstanding leadership qualities, though few would perhaps begrudge such an unstitting and loyal foot soldier the chance to swap his khaki for the braid of higher office.

Stewart, now 35 and looking smarter than a Burton's dummy at Lord's vesterday, is the first Surrey player to lead England since 1961, when Peter May was captain against Australia. Although he has captained England twice before - in 1993 after Graham Gooch fell ill -Stewart will be in charge for the five-match Test series against South Africa next month as well as the one-off Test against Sri Lanka in August.

If one such elevation is usually enough for a county to celebrate, the appointment yesterday of Adam Hollioake as one-day captain will have made it doubly joyful, and the Prince of Wales' feathers will probably seen flying from every flagpole in SE11 for the next week.

Mind you, that Hollioake has only been appointed for the Texaco matches this month and not the triangular tournament in August does suggest that the selectors are perhaps getting cold feet over the dual captaincy. If they are, Stewart's role, as one of a handful of players worthy of both Test and oneday places, could expand even further. Indeed, it would not be too far fetched to see him installed as England captain for next year's World Cup.

Speaking after David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, had made the formal announcement yesterday Stewart to win. Be desperate for success, immediately scotched suggestions that he was about to put the lid on English cricket's Pandora's box once and for all.

"Obviously I'm not going to wave a magic wand and suddenly make everything hunky dory," Stewart said. "What we will be doing is our best to be competitive and to be consistent. If we do that, then we've a chance of being a good side."

Unlike Atherton, who in the end chose not to vote, Stew-



Alec Stewart, England's new captain, faces the press alongside David Graveney (centre) and Adam Hollioake at Lord's yesterday

certain of the kind of player he wants. "They must have the will and be proud of playing for their country. In fact our biggest

situations," he said. With the final choice being between just two candidates -Stewart and Nasser Hussain the decision by Graveney and his selectors, Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, was, in the end at least, a unanimous one. "The deciding factor in Alec's

favour," Graveney said after-

challenge is to learn how to

come out on top in the crunch

art has decided to be a part of wards, "was his experience and the selection process, and is very respect within the team." . The history of Test cricket is

> not exactly littered with captains who have kept wicket, a role Stewart will almost certainly have to perform this summer if England are to play a five-man bowling attack. For England, yet to win a five-match Test series since 1986/87, a major worry of opening batsment. must be that too much responsibility is being heaped upon their most important player.

Having to perform three vital jobs at once invites compromise and Stewart, despite an oft-stated preference for opening - something his Test batting

average also bears out, being 47 opposition a huge advantage. without the gloves and 32 with -will bat at either three or four. providing he keeps wicket.

But even if Stewart is happy in himself about the move down the order, any further drop in Atherton's currently modest form could leave England with an inexperienced pair

English cricket may have stopped shooting itself in the foot quite as often as it used to, but facing the new ball partnership of Allan Donald and Shaun Pollock without Stewart or an in-from Atherton to com-

PARADED before the cameras

and microphones at Lord's yes-

terday, Alec Stewart delivered

the kind of performance we can

expect to become typical dur-ing the months ahead. Self-as-

sured without being cocky,

positive without being unreal-

much of Michael Atherton,

For a start, he will never be

seen sprouting stubble, whether

fashionable or not. Stewart's

grooming is immaculate. He re-

sembles, it has been said, an old-

and his upright stance, others

liken him more to a marine, es-

pecially when he thrusts out his

chest and strides forth to fulfil

his duty on the field, each in-

nings approached as a military

mission. He loves his country.

So much so that, if he had his

With his close-cropped hair

fashioned American golf pro.

however, in Alec Stewart.

Stewart, a big fan of Atherton's, counters this by saying he would be surprised, despite

one newspaper's ridiculous claims that the Lancashire man would no longer be welcome in

If 35 seems an odd time to be fulfilling one's boyhood dreams Stewart, as he has already done with his batting, example of Gooch: "I always bat them would be handing the took on the job for the first time deeply for solutions than they

Fastidious, fierce and

groomed for the top

at about the same age and kept may otherwise do. As it is, Stewplaying Test cricket past the age art expects to be able call on both of 40. Like him, as long as I'm Atherton and Hussain for advice.

good enough, I'd like to play for England as long as possible." Ironically, it was probably months in which to rectify his due to this similarity in outlook the England dressing-room, if and style as Gooch's vice-caphis old partner was not open- tain that persuaded the selecing the innings in the first Test tors to overlook him in favour it will not be easy is an underof Atherton following Gooch's statement. In Stewart, England resignation as captain in 1993.

Perhaps therein lies a possible problem. Goods, Gatting and Stewart are so like-minded that takes inspiration from the a more questioning mind, such as Hussain's, might have forced look at Graham Gooch, who the selectors to search more

included squad

Football

By Mark Burton

NICOLAS ANELKA, who made his international debut only last mouth in Sweden, was the surprise inclusion when France's preliminary 28-man squad for the World Cup finals was announced yesterday.

Anelka, joined in the squad by his Arsenal team-mates Emmanuel Perit and Patrick Vieira. may not make it to pest month's finals because France's coach, Aimé Jacquet, will reduce the squad to 22 by 2 June.

The Cheisea defender Franck Leboeuf was also chosen, along with West Ham's goalkeeper, Bernard Lama, but there was no place in the squad for either the Upton Park club's new signing, the midfielder Marc Keller, or Tottenham's David Ginola.

Ian Wright will have the opportunity to increase his chances of pushing his way into England's World Cup squad when he plays for Arsenal in their Premiership match at Liverpool tonight.

The club's record goalscorer came on as a substitute during Sunday's 4-0 victory over Everton that brought Arsenal the title, but he has not started a first-team game since mid-January.

France's selection of the Ar-senal trio – Anelka in particular - reflects their successful season, but success brings increased pressures to a club and its staff as well as reward. Milan have made an approach for the Highbury club's Premiership-winning coach. Arsène Wenger. However, Arsenal have responded by opening talks with the Frenchman on a five-year contract that is believed to be worth £5m. It would follow on from his current deal, which runs until the end of next season.

The new Scottish Premiership finally became a reality when the Scottish Football Association approved the historic change. The first new professional league in Scotland for 108 years will start next season with 10 clubs.

The SFA Council and members vesterday ratified their ex ecutive committee's approval of the breakaway teams' proposals to bring to an end a saga that began late last year when the Premier Division clubs announced their desire to resign from the Scottish League and join new setup, enabling them to control television and sponsorship rights.

Reports, Scoreboard,

With Australia to follow this

winter, Stewart could not have

wished for a more difficult 12

record of two losses from two

lests in charge. Pointing out that

have one of the great survivors

and players of the last decade.

They also have a man intent on

teaching England how to win.

Let us hope the learning curve

is a steep one.

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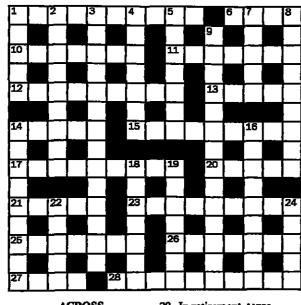
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More football, page 29

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Beef dearth to be resolved, tages (7-3) He accompanied Robin

Hood a lot (4) 10 Post at university advanta-Gangster fitting cowl to

12 Staff in declines keep stan- 27 dards up (9) Crack up in apex tolerated

14 Direction in which all players contribute (5) Eugenia preparing wine to 2

17 Faces woman, throwing pie 3 with glancing blow (9)

20 In retirement tense – avoided making earthen-

back at church (5) 23 Clerk, one trying to influence style? (3-6) Typical example of one in record book (7)

> DOWN Down-stage mistake (5) How sailor responded, osychoanalysis (9) Office of senior minister

21 OT character, individual sheep over America (7)
Dark place of retirement

in France (5) here (9) 26 Advertise promotion (5,2)
27 Lean-to in Slough? (4)
28 Things indispensible to cardinal before Sunday Garish flat? (9)

(4-10) Rabbit on road, an excel-

lent specimen of its kind Lydia's part in moving

Most plain in America is superlatively unpretentious Jet monorail due to be developed — the pair coming to grief? (5,3,6) Many-faced figures heard about at college (9)

Mark, prime suspect on way, the England team would start every Test match by signship (7) Honour England's opening the national anthem. He has been accused of be-Oil-producer's order not ing superficial and has at times recorded (5) mocks himself for having a personality that lacks depth. None the less, he plays and lives with

> Put another way, he has made himself the consummate professional. Summer and winter, he trains every day, determined at 35 years old to keep

an uncluttered philosophy.

Immaculate image hides a hard edge. on Culley on the new man in charge

istic, patriotic but not jingoistic, fastidiously minds what he eats courteous but not fawning. and takes alcohol only occa-As a matter of form, he sionally. He also keeps videos of paid generous a tribute to his himself in order to analyse and predecessor, a good deal of correct technical flaws. What is more, he is fiercely which was born of genuine admiration. There will not be competitive - too much so, it

was said, in his younger days. In part, this was inherited from his father, Micky, the former Surrey captain whose hard-edged brand of management changed England's whole attitude to Test cricket. He credits his father with instilling the view in him that dedication and commitment are as important as ability and that self-belief is paramount. "He told me that if I did not back my ability, why should anyone else," Stewart once said. "That is not arro-

When he won his first Test cap, Micky was in charge, which inevitably led to suggestions of nepotism. In fact, although Alec would teasingly call his father "manager" at home, in a cricket setting the two went out of their way not to acknowledge their relationship. Ian Greig, Alec's predecessor as Surrey captain, believed that far from enhancing his Test career, parental

gance, just common sense."

involvement held it back. It was Australian grade cricket that made a fighter of Stewhimself at his physical peak. He art. From the age of 18 in 1981 talent come up with a trophy.

he went to Western Australia every English winter for seven years, playing for the Perth team Midland-Guildford. He kept wicket and because he would bat only once a week learned to make every innings count. He also learned how to at-

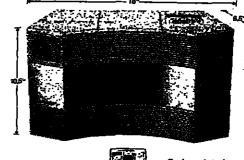
tack an opponent verbally, which did not attract the universal approval of his peers and most certainly not of his masters. In only his second Test, he became embroiled in a slanging match with Desmond Haynes and on his first tour was fined for dissent after over-reacting to an umpire's decision.

He was accused, like his father to some extent, of having the mentality of a footballer, although given both their pasts this should come as no surprise. Micky played professionally for Charlton Athletic, while Alec turned out for Corinthian Casuals in the Isthmian League when he was 17 and for a long time was more interested in a career in the winter game. But having chosen cricket he

has reached this point in his carecr with no doubts over his ability or his temperament. The only unanswered question, curiously, concerns whether, as a cap tain, he is a winner. If the shadow cast by his father bothers him a all it is because under Micky leadership in the 1950s, Surre dominated the County Champ onship, winning title after title During his own five-year tenun at The Oval, from 1991-96, only in the final year, in the Sundar League, did a team awash with

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